

📖 Read Genesis 1:27. Considering this scripture, how could Barnabas be free from prejudice against the Gentiles? How can understanding this scripture make us less prejudice and more effective in giving the gospel to unbelievers, encouraging believers and being useful in general for kingdom work?

📖 Read Acts 11:23a. Why is entering into someone's joy a powerful form of encouragement? Why is it difficult to sometimes enter into people's joy?

📖 Read Acts 11:23b and Romans 12:1. How is challenging people to live faithfully for God a form of encouragement? Why is this form of encouragement more difficult than other forms of encouragement like giving to people's needs, accepting the rejected, and entering into people's joy?

📖 Read 1 Cor. 11:1. How does this verse show Paul was spiritually living? What would it take for one of us to be able to say what Paul is saying in this verse?

📖 Read Acts 11:24. It's clear that Barnabas was spiritually alive. How does spiritual living empower us to encourage people? How are people encouraged by us living spiritually?

Application questions:

✓ Barnabas was sent as an ambassador to the new believers at Antioch because he was not prejudiced, entered into people's joy, challenged people to go deep spiritually, and was alive spiritually. Which of these areas are you strong and weak in? What do you think needs to be done to make you a better encourager?