

***The Missing Factors of Genuine Friendship
Friendship is Involved: Barnabas and Paul
Acts 4, 9, 11, 15 (page 758)***

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Background (Acts 4:36-37):

- Barnabas = son of e n c o u r a g e m e n t

Being i n v o l v e d as a friend means I am:

- able to see the b e s t in you (Acts 9:26-28)
It means...
 - Seeing b e y o n d your p a s t (v 26)
 - D e f e n d i n g you (v 27)
 - It will i m p a c t others (v 27-30)

Being i n v o l v e d as a friend means I am:

- s u p p o r t i v e of you (Acts 11:22-26,30; 12:24-25; 13:1-3)
It means...
 - Seeing o p p o r t u n i t i e s for you (v 24)
 - S e e k i n g you out (v 25-26)
 - I n v e s t i n g in you (v 26b)

Being i n v o l v e d as a friend means I am:

- willing to speak h o n e s t l y with you (Acts 15:36-41)
It means...
 - Knowing it is alright to d i s a g r e e honestly (v 37)

Being i n v o l v e d as a friend means I am:

- willing to r i s k m i s u n d e r s t a n d i n g for long-term g r o w t h (15:39; Col 4:10; 2 Tim 4:11)
It means ...
 - God is able to bring g o o d and g l o r y from our c o n f u s i o n (vs 39-41; 2 Tim 4:11)

Give it some thought...

Think of *one friend* that God has used in your life who:

- √ always saw the *best* in you.
- √ gave you continual *support* in helping you be your best
- √ was *honest* with you

In what ways has that contributed to *how you befriend* others?

What is *one thing* about friendship you learned from Barnabas?