

BARNABAS: WILLING TO SPONSOR

Acts 9:26-30

Believers need sponsors.

I. THE SPONSOR SAW HIM (26)

- Trying to associate with the disciples

A. FERVENT

- Saul was making repeated attempts to unite with the disciples.

B. FRUSTRATED

1. Because the disciples feared him - See 7:58-8:3 and 9:1-2

2. Because the disciples distrusted him - They were unconvinced of his conversion

C. FORLORN

- He's lonely and loathed

II. THE SPONSOR TOOK HIM (27a)

- But Barnabas took hold of him

A. TAKING AN INTEREST

- Barnabas is courteous enough, courageous enough, curious enough and Christian enough to at least give Saul a hearing

B. EXTENDING BROTHERLY LOVE

- He is a sympathetic helper in Saul's hour of need

III. THE SPONSOR BROUGHT HIM (27b)

- Brought him to the apostles

A. ACCOMPANYING HIM

B. PROVIDING ACCESS

C. ACCOMODATING HIM - See Galatians 1:18

IV. **THE SPONSOR EXPLAINED HIM** (27c)

- Described to them ...

A. THE EFFORT

- Becoming Saul's spokesman or advocate

B. THE ESSENCE

1. Telling what the Lord had done for Saul
2. Telling what Saul had done for the Lord

V. **THE SPONSOR ENABLED HIM** ... (28-29a)

A. TO BE INCLUDED (28a) > He was with them

1. Barnabas was persuasive - He used what he had to do what he could
2. Saul was connected

B. TO BE ACTIVE (28b-29a)

1. Participating: Moving about freely
2. Preaching: Speaking out boldly in the name of the Lord

VI. **THE SPONSOR PROTECTED HIM** (29b-30)

- They sent him away to Tarsus

A. THE THREAT

- Hellenistic Jews sought to kill Saul

B. THE RESPONSE

1. The brethren escort Saul to Caesarea
2. They send Saul to his hometown of Tarsus

VII. **THE SPONSORS AMONG US**

- Are we willing sponsors?

A. Do you see you who is at our door? (26)

B. To whom do you latch on? (27a)

C. Do you assist others in connecting to the Christian community? (27b)

D. Whose testimony do you know? (27c)

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E. Who is now effectively ministering in our church because of your efforts? (28-29a)

F. Who have you helped out of trouble? (29b-30)

CONCLUSION:

None of us are so self-reliant as to never, on occasion, need a sponsor

- Will you have one?

- Will you be one?