

1, Birth of a New Church- The Church in Antioch. Acts 11:19-21

The persecution of the church in Jerusalem scattered many believers throughout the region taking the gospel with them.

One of the cities they travelled to was about 300 miles to the north- Antioch. (roughly the distance from Plymouth NC to Black Mountain NC.) Let's let that sink in!

What is the gospel? 1 Corinthians 15:1-7. John 20:30-31

As the preachers from Cyprus and Cyrene spoke, "The LORD's hand was with them."

Which simply means that they were doing God's will and their ministry was blessed with the presence of God's power.

Why do you think that at times it seems God's hand is with a particular ministry effort or not? Are outwardly seen results in the immediate the only measure of God's blessing?

2. Barnabas Sent from Jerusalem to Investigate. Acts 11:22-24

Barnabas is sent to investigate what is happening there. Is it real? Is it genuine?

He saw the grace of God.

Consider the following:

2 Corinthians 12:9. _____

Galatians 2:20,21 _____

Titus 2:11-14 _____

The grace of god would have also been seen in the fellowship among peoples from all over the world.

Whether or not a revival or true evangelism is happening is evidenced in the long term, not the short term.

God's word to the Galatians 5:17-26

The Words of Gamaliel Acts 5:33-35,38-39.

The words of John the Baptist. Matthew 3:4-10

You have probably seen the news story about the Asbury Revival in Wilmore Kentucky. Is it real? Is it of God? Is it true revival? It will only be known by the fruit that is produced over time.

Barnabas encourages the new believers.

He tells them to remain true to the LORD with devoted hearts. Loyalty to Christ!
Persevere in the faith. Hebrews 10:32-39

The word of God then gives a resounding commendation of Barnabas. Vs 24.

To be full of the Holy Spirit and the faith, you can't be full of _____.

3. Barnabas Searches for Saul in Tarsus. Acts 11:25-26

Barnabas knew that Saul had been called to minister to gentiles and recognizing the tremendous need at Antioch with all the new believers, He travels to the large city of Tarsus, over ½ million people, to look for him and bring him to the new church.

Saul and Barnabas ministered there for a whole year. Followers of Christ were first called Christians in Antioch.

It means of the party of Christ or loyal to Christ.

The name was apparently coined by the gentiles living in the city. Christian was not a term that Jesus used. The name Christian appears only here, Acts 26:28 and 1 Peter 4:16.

During this year in Antioch, Saul and Barnabas are sent on a short trip to Judea, to bring relief to the believers in Judea who were suffering through a famine.

When they left Jerusalem, they brought John mark with them back to Antioch.

4. Saul and Barnabas chosen to serve as missionaries. Acts 13:1-3

During a season of fasting and prayer the leaders of the church in Antioch were told by the Holy Spirit is set apart Saul and Barnabas to serve as missionaries.

Something to think about- we see throughout the Bible the importance of prayer and fasting. What role do these two vital spiritual activities play in your life? Why or why not?