



Decade of Availability Spirit-Led Church Growth At Antioch

There is a reason why the disciples where ‘first’ called Christians at Antioch.

A. The Gospel Goes to Antioch vv. 19-21 Salvation

1. **Adventures in adversity:** Is it not true that God uses/permits ‘adversity’ to work His will in our lives? Because of persecution the message of the Gospel spread across the known world.
2. **Spirit-led Church growth:** Remember—since Pentecost the Holy Spirit has energized (anointed) the Gospel message. The ‘Hand of the Lord’ is at work through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Salvation: *For a church to grow, the message of the cross, the message of the Gospel—must be preached. But it also must be the passion of every believer to share the Gospel with the lost.*

Who have you shared Jesus with this year?

B. Barnabas Goes to Antioch vv. 22:24 Encouragement

1. **Son of comfort:** That’s what Barnabas’s name means and that’s how he lived his life. Encouraging others. After arriving in Antioch and seeing the move of God...he ‘encouraged’ them to keep doing what they were doing.
2. **More Spirit-led church growth:** v. 24 It was the fullness of the Holy Spirit combined with faith that God used to bring in even more new believers.

Encouragement: *Greek ‘parakaleo’ also used of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter (See John 14:16). For a church to grow it needs the Holy Spirit (the divine Comforter). It also needs the entire church to share a spirit of encouragement with each other.*

Who have you encouraged this past week?

C. Paul Goes to Antioch vv. 25-26 Teaching

1. **Barnabas brings Saul:** Barnabas did not go back to Jerusalem to give a report—instead he goes to get Saul/Paul who had yet to be released into ministry. This was to be Paul’s first call to active ministry.

Teaching: *Barnabas knew that the new believes at Antioch needed to be grounded in the Word. To be ‘Spirit-led’ you also need to be ‘Spirit-taught’.*

Are you a Spirit-taught, Bible-taught believer?

D. Agabus Goes to Antioch vv. 27-30 Gifts of the Spirit

1. **The prophetic ministry:** Quoting from Joel 2, Peter proclaimed on the Day of Pentecost that “...I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophecy.” (Acts 2:17-18).
2. **Gifts in operation:** Each gift of the Spirit has a purpose and this type of prophetic gift was used to warn of a coming famine. Notice that the response to the need was immediate.

Gifts of the Spirit: *Growing churches are Spirit-led, Spirit-taught and Spirit-filled. The Baptism of the Spirit is for all believers and the gifts of the Spirit are for all believers. The ‘prophetic’ gift ranges from speaking forth the Word to strangers, friends and family—to speaking forth a prophetic word to the entire congregation.*

Have you spoken God into the life of anyone this past month?

Acts 11:19-30 (NKJV)

19 Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only.

20 But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. **21** And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.

22 Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch.

23 When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. **24** For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.

25 Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. **26** And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

27 And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. **28** Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar. **29** Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. **30** This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

