

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Doctrine and Duty for Disciples Series

Acts of the Apostles

"A New Mission Field"

Acts 11:19-30

Barnabas and Saul at Antioch

¹⁹ Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen travelled 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.

Relief to Judea

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.

1. How was this "mission's trip" different from the time when the disciples were scattered after the persecution of Stephen?
2. What did it mean in v. 21 when it says the "hand of the Lord was with them"?
3. How has the "hand of the Lord" work in your life spiritually so that others believed and turned to the Lord?

Note: If you are concerned that you have not experienced the "hand of the Lord" in your spiritual walk in your life, here are a few verses to ponder.

- James 1:23-25 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.
4. In v. 21, "believed and turned" is basically, "faith and repentance". Discuss how you "believed and turned" when you became a Christian.
 5. Does every Christian have a ministry? Should every ministry for our Lord lead lost people to faith in our Savior? What is your ministry and how has God's hand been blessing it?
 6. We can see the characteristics of a biblical church in these verses. What are the characteristics? How does CBF measure up to it?