

# Barnabas And Saul At Antioch - Acts 11:22-26

Sunday AM 02/13/22

## Introduction:

Growth does not come by accident. Show me any company or organization that has experienced growth and I will show you an organization that has experienced "growing pains." In order to grow we must put forth effort, commitment, determination, and usually a lot of unsung heroes. Darrel Johnson is not a household name. But he helped Emmitt Smith and Troy Aikman get in the Hall of Fame; as he was the fullback that made the holes for Emmitt Smith and protected Troy Aikman from the blitz's.

## I) Background

### A) Started due to persecution in Jerusalem and disciples being scattered.

1. Said in earlier lesson that good things sometimes comes out of bad circumstances.
2. Disciples came preaching the word and there were honest hearts in Antioch.

### B) Antioch was a major Gentile city

1. "Seleucid kings and early Roman emperors extended and adorned the city until it became the third largest in the Roman Empire (after Rome and Alexandria), with a population in the first century A.D. of about 500,000." Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary
2. The church at Antioch in **Acts 11** is noted for being the first Gentile Congregation. But it is also noted for its great growth and evangelism.

## II) Barnabas, Acts 11.23-24

**Acts 11:22** 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.*

**A) Called "son of encouragement"**

1. A Levite, to serve in the temple
2. **Acts 4.34** sold his possessions to give to the needy saints in Jerusalem.
  - a. Shows a person willing to make real sacrifices.
  - b. Many times, we talk about sacrificing for our faith but don't. Taking up the cross is not a just a metaphor it is a reality.

**B) He was a trusted person,**

**Acts 9:26** *And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple. **27** But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.*

1. A good name is of great value,  
**Proverbs 22:1** *A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold.*
2. There are some people that have earned the trust of others, Barnabas was one of them.

**C) A man full of the Holy Spirit and of faith, **Acts 11.24****

1. He was sent by the brethren at Jerusalem to Antioch. Notice they did not send Peter or another apostle or Philip, etc.
2. Full of the Holy Spirit.
  - a. Was this miraculous? No indication Barnabas ever performed a miracle, laid hands on anyone. Could refer

to inspiration just as in the case of Stephen, **Acts 6.3, 5.**

b. Could refer to being led by the Holy Spirit as in

**Galatians 5:18a** *But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*

**Galatians 5:22** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,*

**Romans 8:14** *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*

3. Full of faith -- could refer to a knowledge of God's word, **Jude 3.**  
Or personal conviction based upon God's word, **Romans 10.17**

### III) Congregations Need Barnabas'

A) People who are willing to give of themselves to serve the Lord,

**2 Corinthians 8:5** *And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.*

1. Servitude is a big part of being a Christian.
2. Not just to serve God but to serve each other.

B) Show me a growing congregation and I will show you...

1. People willing to give of their time, teach a class, call on the sick, show up to hand out announcements, greet the visitors, attend Bible Classes, show hospitality, etc.
2. Most of the time they go unnoticed but they are essential to the work of the local congregation.

### IV) Saul brought to Antioch

A) Brought to Antioch by Barnabas,

**Acts 11:25** *Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. 26a 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.***

1. Why?
  - a. Barnabas may have realized his limitations.
  - b. More work than one man could do,

***1 Corinthians 3:5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. 7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. 8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.***

2. There is no room for jealousy and envy in God's kingdom. A conductor of an orchestra was one time asked what was the hardest position to fill in the orchestra. He replied, "Second chair, for everyone wants to be the first chair."

**B) Saul and Barnabas worked together for a whole year**

1. To teach the word of God. This amounted to a prolonged Gospel Meeting.
2. Christians need to be taught, edified in order to grow.
3. There is teaching concerning how one becomes a member of Christ; then teaching on how one lives as a Christian. Both are essential to church growth.

**V) Called Christian At Antioch, v. 26**

**A) Christians,**

***Isaiah 62:2 The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, And all kings your glory. You shall be called by a new name, Which the***

***mouth of the LORD will name.***

1. The name "Christian" is a divine name. One given by God.
2. It means to belong to or follow Christ; to be Christ like.
3. Mentioned in **Acts 26.28**, those hearing the word of God and obeying it are Christians.
4. What does it take to be a Christian today? The same as it did on the Day of Pentecost, the same as it did with the Ethiopian Eunuch, the same as it did in Antioch.
5. What does it take to be a Methodist, Presbyterian, Catholic, Baptist, etc.?
6. **1 Peter 4:16** *Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.* who do we glorify when we wear the name of Methodist, Catholic, Baptist, Presbyterian, etc.?

**Conclusion:**

I want to be a Christian and only a Christian. No other creed but the Bible, no other church except the one for which Christ died, no other hope other than eternal salvation.