

# THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

## CHAPTER 11:19-26

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### TITLE:

## WHO IS A CHRISTIAN?

### THEME:

Acts 1:8

“But you shall receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and “**you shall be witnesses to Me**” in **Jerusalem**, and in all **Judea** and **Samaria**, and to the **end of the earth**.”

## “WHO IS A CHRISTIAN ?”

### According to a 1993 George Gallop Poll

- **86%** of Americans call themselves ‘Christians’
- **62%** say that they have had a personal encounter with Jesus Christ.
- **10%** consider themselves to be a committed Christian who holds to the teachings of Jesus Christ as it’s found in the Bible.

### According to a 33 AD. Poll by Jesus of Nazareth

- **100%** of all humans will die in their sins unless they come to trust Him for the forgiveness of sin (John 8:24)

## LIFE Magazine

December '94

I find it comical that LIFE Magazine would be asking about Jesus - the author of life....  
They would sell more issues if they knew the author of LIFE.

## ‘Who Was Jesus’?

### Revelation 1:8

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, the Lord, which *is*, and which *was*, and which *is to come*, the Almighty.

## ACTS CHAPTER 11

### THE GENTILE CHURCH IS BORN

- A.) vv. 1-18 The Gentiles are Accepted  
B.) **vv. 19-26 The Gentiles are Encouraged**  
C.) vv. 27-30 The Gentiles are Ministering

A lot of Questions Were Being Asked By  
the Mother Church in Jerusalem....

#### 1.) Who is a Christian, *One Who Preaches the Gospel* vv. 19-21

*The Scattered Born-Again Jews shared with the Jews*

#### Preaching the Word to the Jews (O.T..)

##### *Acts 8:1*

Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

*Phoenicia - is the area from Mt. Carmel north to Syria Today*

*Cyprus - is the Mediterranean island just off the west coast of Palestine.*

**Antioch**, *A metropolitan center, It was the third largest city of the Roman Empire. Very wealthy, with a \* Pop. over 500,000 \* Main street Antioch was inlaid marble and was four miles long with marble columns between the street and sidewalks shading the pedestrians. \* It was the first and only city of the ancient world to have its streets lighted at night. It was very diverse, and very sinful. Prostitution was accepted and encouraged by the majority. Pagan worship (which included abortion) interestingly enough was very popular, it was the home of horse racing & gambling. "Historians wrote that the evil of Antioch even affected Rome"*

**Antioch Would Become Paul's base of Operations**  
(that's the exact opposite view of alot of Christians)

##### *Romans 5:20*

...But where sin abounds, grace does much more abound,

# We are to Run towards the Sinner

*(Remember, Philip ran towards the Ethiopian, not away from him)*

**We are not to separate ourselves from World (Physically- be not conformed to it)**

## *1 Corinthians 5:9*

I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. :10 Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.

## Verse 20

*The Scattered Born-Again Gentiles shared with the Hellenists*

*Cyrene - The Northern most region of North Africa*

## Preaching the Lord Jesus to the Hellenists

## Verse 21

*Believed and Turned is not two distinct responses in the Greek language but one. (aorist participle with an aorist finite verb) which here means that "In believing, they turned to the Lord" -- it's an inseparable, simultaneous action.*

- You can be a believer in God and yet not have turned to the Lord (religious person)
- You can be a believer in turning from an immoral way of life (a moral person)

## But to be a Christian

*You must believe which causes you to turn to the Lord --Simultaneously*

## Matthew 18:3

and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, **unless you are converted** and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

**You may be thinking that you're a Christian,** but you've never been converted (to be turned over like a pancake)

## 2.) Who is a Christian, *One Who Encourages Others* vv. 22-24

### Verse 22

Barnabas, there six qualifications that made Barney the right man.

**3/6 is found in (v.24)**

- (1) He was from Cyprus, (4:36) (2) He was generous, (4:37)  
(3) He was gentle, (4:36)

### Verse 23

He saw the grace (unconditional, unearned favor, in the lives of those who had been saved) they were loved by the church! **Grace !!!**

**Grace is overlooking the faults of another,  
and blessing them in spite of those faults**

\* *encouraged them* GRK 3870 *parakaleo* (*par-ak-al-eh'-o*)

to call near, to invite close with intentions to  
motivate by exhortation -- {to give a kick}

*i.e.*

Hebrews 10:38-39

Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, my soul has no pleasure in him." :39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

## The Entire Book of James

is dedicated to Exhorting or Encouraging Us On

### ‘With Purpose of Heart’

(~~Not the soul (mind) only~~, but *spirit (innermost)* of the man)

\* *purpose* GRK 4286 *prothesis* (*proth'-es-is*)

to direct the life with resolution of will **to make this a way of life !** {The Doctrine and Conduct of Life}

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- Because of Antioch's Evil Influence,  
The New Believers Would Need to Take a Strong Stand

- To Make an All Out Commitment  
to Christ from the Heart

- The Mind Will Change,  
The Heart is the Anchor of the Man

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When We Were Saved... We Were Given a New Heart  
(It's Our Mind that Needs Renewing)

Daniel 1:8

But Daniel *purposed* in his heart that he would not defile himself

\* *Purposed* **HEB** *suwm (soom)* to position yourself, to set in a firm spot

i.e.

**2 Timothy 2:22**

*Flee* also youthful lusts (like Joseph)

Religion Originates from the head, (Self-Centered)  
But a Relationship originates in the heart, (Self-Denying)

**The meaning of  
"walking with God"**

**is that your will is under the Lordship,  
rule and reign of His will.**

1 Corinthians 6:20

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body,  
and in your spirit, which are God's.

He tells you • Where to go. • What to do. • When you're to do it.

**Jesus is either Lord of All... or He is Not Lord at All**

Q:

Since Jesus was invited into your life... how much change has gone on

Remember Jesus said YOU MUST be born again

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

*Galatians 6:15*

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision (*a religious life*) availeth anything, nor uncircumcision (*you can't plead ignorance*), **but a new creature.**

Grace produces Gladness  
Legalism produces Guilt

Verse 23

**'They Should (cleave) Continue'...** speaks in a marital context

*Matthew 19:5*

And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave (continue) to his wife...and they two shall be one flesh.

D.L. Moody said that he would *"make it a point to enlist new believers in service to the church, to put upon their feet and hands what had been put in to their hearts and minds."*

Abiding in Christ John 15:1-7

We are talking about Cleaving here

- obey the word now!
- go back to your wife, your husband now!
- stop the pornography now!
- give God your whole heart, Now!

Verse 24

The Reason for his Ministry Success... he was a good man  
good means a man like God. He displayed the nature of God

his humble state attracted people to the Lord.  
*i.e.* Bill Bright, whatever he was saying, I wanted to hear it.  
no talent or education or eloquence can produce goodness

Galatians 5:22

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness,  
***goodness***, faith, :23 gentleness, self-control.

### 3.) Who is a Christian, *One Who Persevere* vv. 25-26

#### Verse 25

Barnabas understood *that Saul would be just the best man for the job.*

Paul had been converted for nearly **11 years** at this point.

**3 years** was spent learning.

**8 years** was spent doing

Making Tents in Tarsus, he was being prepared.

## ‘Time Tested and Trial Tested’

\* *Seek GRK* *anazeteo (an-ad-zay-teh'-o);*

to search out with urgency. to be single-eyed

\* *Found GRK* *obtained him. to receive as taking something “You’re coming with me!”*

Barney wouldn’t stop looking, he wouldn’t give up the search

***Jude 1:24***

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the  
presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

***Romans 14:4***

Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be  
made to stand, for **God is able to make him stand.**

**Taught**, No longer Preaching, but Teaching  
The safety net for every Believer & New Believer.

## *The Church is to Focus Evenly on These Three Essentials*

- A. *Preaching* to the Lost..... *Entreating* them to Come
- B. *Encouraging* the Converts..... *Exhorting* them to Grow
- C. *Teaching* the Believers..... *Educating* them in the Word

## *God's Order For The Church*

- *The Christians Preached the Gospel to their neighbors (v.19,20)*
- *Barnabas encouraged (exhorted) them to continue with the Lord (v.23)*
- *Paul taught them how to continue, how to walk, how to pray (v.26)*

### *2 Timothy 4:2*

*Preach* the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, *exhort* (encourage), with all long-suffering and *teaching*.

**seek, found, brought, taught**

*One Who Perseveres, Carry's out the order, Stays the course*

**Christ** (grk.) - **ians** (lat.)' used only three times in all of the Bible the word means (to be in Christ's Party) it was used as a derogatory label by the world towards the followers of Jesus Christ, meaning Jesus-People or Christ-Men or Little-Messiah's

*But;*

The verb '*Called*' in the Greek can imply a 'divine call' meaning that the name was given by God...

because the fulfillment of Acts 1:8 was finally, under way - *Ahhhh!*

## **WHO IS A CHRISTIAN ?**

### *Galatians 2:20*

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.



*Colossians 1:27*

Christ in you, the hope of glory.

**This Week Coming In From Orlando,**

we were getting on the flight from Orlando to Ontario and these little kids are getting on the plane with Donald Duck hats on their heads and Lion King shirts on with mickey mouse balloons in hand.... Well the night before I had a dream that the plane was going to crash and that no one would survive... Ladies and Gentile we've leveled off at 39,000 ft. we're about 2 1/2 hrs out of Dallas, over the gulf of Mexico' We hope you enjoy your flight' - yah, our last flight...

Just then KaBoom and the dream about crashing enroute to Ontario and saying good-bye to Lisa..... then the balloon

**If you're trusting that Jesus died and rose again for your sins you're saved no matter what your problem might be**

Ephesians 2:7-9

**GOD SENT HIS SON THAT** 'He might show the exceeding riches of His **grace** and kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. :8 For by **grace** you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; **it is the gift of God**, :9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.'