

# SERMON NOTES

## Evidence of God's Grace

*Acts 11:19-30*

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Acts 1:8 - "but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea & Samaria, and even the remotest part of the earth."

### I. Evidence of God's Grace

#### The Gospel Crosses Cultural Divides -- Acts 11: 19-24

"<sup>19</sup> Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews. <sup>20</sup> Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. <sup>21</sup> The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. <sup>22</sup> News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. <sup>23</sup> When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. <sup>24</sup> He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord. "

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What makes your heart really glad? How have you seen the evidence of God's grace in your life?

Acts 11:21 "The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord."

1 Thess. 1:9 - "you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God"

Acts 11:24 - "He (Barnabas) was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith and a great number of people were brought to the Lord."

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### II. Growing in God's Grace

Acts 11:25-26 - "Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch."

Phil. 3:8 - "I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him..."

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### III. Generous in Giving

Acts 27-30 - "<sup>27</sup> During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. <sup>28</sup> One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) <sup>29</sup> The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea. <sup>30</sup> This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul."