



**The Ministry of Barnabas**  
**Acts 11:19-30**

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# The ministry of Barnabas:

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- ❖ Jesus is our advocate.
- ❖ The Holy Spirit is another advocate.
- ❖ We are called to carry on this ministry of advocacy (truth + love).

# Genuine conversion:

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- ❖ Everyone needs it.
- ❖ It starts with rational thinking.
- ❖ It continues with spiritual discernment.
- ❖ It is part of a process.

# Christian conversion:

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- ❖ It is initiated by God.
- ❖ It challenges religion.
- ❖ It features transformation by the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ It comes through the words of the Gospel.

## Peter's sermon:

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- ❖ They (or you) killed Jesus.
- ❖ God raised him from the dead.
- ❖ We apostles are all witnesses.

A photograph of a person's hands clasped in prayer, resting on an open book. The background is blurred, focusing on the hands and the text. The text "What do you want?" is written in a white, outlined font at the top, followed by a horizontal yellow line. Below the line is a list of four items: Power, Approval, Comfort, and Control, each preceded by a small diamond symbol.

# What do you want?

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- ❖ Power
- ❖ Approval
- ❖ Comfort
- ❖ Control

## Implications of conversion:

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- ❖ Do you feel inadequate? Don't "call anyone impure or unclean" (including yourself).
- ❖ As we make disciples, we should be prepared to give and receive.
- ❖ Ask the right questions:  
*Not* "Will it work for me?"  
*But* "Is it true?"

## Acts 11:19

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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.



## Acts 11:20-21

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

# Largest cities in Roman Empire:

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- ❖ Rome
- ❖ Alexandria
- ❖ Antioch



ATLANTIC OCEAN

Britian

Belgica

Germania

Sarmatia

Gaul

Dacia

Illyricum

BLACK SEA

Spain (Tarshish?)

Italy

Moesia

Thrace

Armenia

• ROME

Pontus

Macedonia

Cappadocia

# Roman Empire

Asia Minor

Galatia

Euphrates River

• ANTIOCH

Africa

GREAT SEA (The Mediterranean)

Crete

Cyprus

Syria

• JERUSALEM

It's furthest extent was years 8 to 115 A.D.

Numidia

Cyrenacia

Egypt

Nabatea (Arabia)

Nile River

RED SEA

MELBOURNE COMMUNITY CHURCH  
REFLECTING CHRIST'S LOVE



Italy  
• ROME

Moesia

Thrace

BLACK SEA

Armenia

Pontus

Macedonia

Asia Minor

Galatia

Cappadocia

• ANTIOCH

Euphrates River

Syria

GREAT SEA  
(The Mediterranean)

Crete

Cyprus

• JERUSALEM

# Roman Empire

It's furthest extent was years 8 to 115 A.D.

Cyrenacia

Egypt

Nabatea (Arabia)

Nile River

RED SEA



## Acts 11:22-23

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News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 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.



## Acts 11:24

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He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

## Acts 11:25-26

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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.

## Acts 11:27-28

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During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. 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.)



## Acts 11:29-30

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The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea. This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

## Acts 13:1

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Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul.

## Acts 13:2-3

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While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

# The Antioch church:

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- ❖ Multi-cultural
- ❖ Praying
- ❖ Committed to discipleship
- ❖ Generous to the needy

## Acts 11:23

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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.

# What did Barnabas do?

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- ❖ He encouraged.
- ❖ He exhorted.
- ❖ He begged.
- ❖ He beseeched.
- ❖ He entreated.
- ❖ He *parakaleo*.

## Hebrews 3:13

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But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

## Truth + Love:

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- ❖ Not a parrot, nor a detective
- ❖ Not a florist, nor a drill sergeant
- ❖ Not a spectator, nor a judge
- ❖ Not too cowardly, nor too critical



## Acts 11:23

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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.

# Why was Barnabas good at this?

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- ❖ Good man
- ❖ Full of the holy spirit and faith

## John 14:15-17

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[Jesus]: “If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever — the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

A photograph of a person's hands clasped in prayer over an open book. The hands are in the foreground, slightly out of focus, with fingers interlaced. The book is open, showing two pages. The background is blurred, suggesting a desk or table. The overall tone is solemn and spiritual.

## Another "advocate"

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- ❖ Comforter
- ❖ Guide
- ❖ *Paraclete*

## 1 John 2:1

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My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father — Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

## 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

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Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

# What have we learned?

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- ❖ Jesus is our advocate.
- ❖ The Holy Spirit is another advocate.
- ❖ We are called to carry on the ministry of advocacy (truth + love).





# Are you being called?

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- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the LORD's Supper