

"The Heartbeat of God!"
Acts 11:22-26

Acts 11:22-26 *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. 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. For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. 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.*

There are three important things about the church at Antioch.

I. The marks of the church.

A. They honored the Lord.

Acts 11:20 *..., preaching the Lord Jesus.*

Acts 11:21 *... and turned to the Lord.*

Acts 11:23 *..., and encouraged them all that ... they should continue with the Lord.*

Acts 11:24 *.... And a great many people were added to the Lord.*

1. They honored Him with their doctrine.

Acts 11:20 *..., preaching the Lord Jesus.*

2. They honored Him with their daily lives.

Acts 11:26 *.... And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.*

B. They hungered for the Lord.

Acts 13:3 *Then, having fasted and prayed,*

II. The mission of the church.

Acts 13:2-3 *As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.*

Heb 12:2 *..., who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross,*

There are certain character qualities that are necessary for following the footsteps of Jesus.

A. I must be a sincere person.

B. I must be a serving person.

Matt 23:11 *But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.*

C. I must be a sacrificial person.

D. I must be a spiritual person.

Acts 11:24 *For he was a good man,*

How can my goodness be acceptable in the eyes of God?

1. I should be full of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 11:24 *For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit*

2. I should be full of faith.

Acts 11:24 *For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith.*

Acts 11:24 *.... And a great many people were added to the Lord.*

3. I should be empty of self.

Acts 11:24-26 *For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. 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.*

III. The message of the church.

Rom 16:25 *Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, ...*

I Cor 15:3-4 *For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,*

Missions, evangelism and discipleship is truly the heartbeat of God.