

# Acts 11

## Peter reports to the Church

**11** Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God.<sup>2</sup> So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying,<sup>3</sup> “You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.”<sup>4</sup> But Peter began and explained it to them in order:<sup>5</sup> “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me.<sup>6</sup> Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air.<sup>7</sup> And I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter; kill and eat.’<sup>8</sup> But I said, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’<sup>9</sup> But the voice answered a second time from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, do not call common.’<sup>10</sup> This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven.<sup>11</sup> And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea.<sup>12</sup> And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house.<sup>13</sup> And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter;<sup>14</sup> he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.’<sup>15</sup> As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning.<sup>16</sup> And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’<sup>17</sup> If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?”<sup>18</sup> When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

## The Church in Antioch

<sup>19</sup> Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews.<sup>20</sup> But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus.<sup>21</sup> And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord.<sup>22</sup> The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch.<sup>23</sup> When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose,<sup>24</sup> for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.<sup>25</sup> So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul,<sup>26</sup> and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

<sup>27</sup> Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.<sup>28</sup> And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over

all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius).<sup>29</sup> So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea.<sup>30</sup> And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

## Cross References

**Acts 1 v 5:** “for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

**Mark 1 v 8:** “I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

**Isaiah 49 v 6:**

“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to bring back the preserved of Israel;  
I will make you as a light for the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

**Acts 4 v 36, 37:** Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

**Acts 9 v 26 to 30:**<sup>26</sup> And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple.<sup>27</sup> But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus.<sup>28</sup> So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord.<sup>29</sup> And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him.<sup>30</sup> And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

**Ephesians 4 v 11 to 16:**<sup>11</sup> And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,<sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,<sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,<sup>14</sup> so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.<sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,<sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

**Acts 1 v 15:** In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said...

**Acts 5 v 14:** And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women...

**Acts 5 v 32:** “And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

**Acts 6 v 3:** Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.

**Acts 9 v 1, 2:** But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

**Acts 9 v 13:** But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem....”