

Encouraged by Character and Call



Acts 11:23-24

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- **23** 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. **24** He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

Introduction



- **What perspective do we see of the church?**
- **Easy to criticize and be a “downer”**
- **Can we spot what the grace of God has done and is doing in the lives of others?**
- **Character is connected to encouragement**
- **Calling is connected to encouragement**

Personal Involvement

- **Heard what God had done in Antioch**
- **Notice result of Stephen's martyrdom**
- **Jerusalem church sent Barnabas**



Personal perspective

- ²³ When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done
- He saw, could perceive lives had changed
- What the grace of God had done
- Humble lesson here...some who had been persecuted...and men
- No mention of any names!



Personal Response

- He was glad
- **17** As He said this, all His opponents were being humiliated; and the entire crowd was rejoicing over all the glorious things being done by Him.



Personal Response

- encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts
- “**encouraged—exhorted**” (Acts 2:40; used 23x in the book of Acts!!!)
- “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him (8:31).



Acts 13:42,43



- ⁴² As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people invited them to speak further about these things on the next Sabbath. ⁴³ When the congregation was dismissed, many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who talked with them and urged them to continue in the grace of God.

- **remain true to the Lord with all their hearts**

- **Always a temptation lurking**

- **Lord is our master**

- **True to the Lord**

- **Complete commitment**



Personal Character

- **Good Man**

Genuine, caring, authentic, engaged

- **Full of the Holy Spirit**

Filled with God's spirit, empowered

- **Full of faith**

Dimensions of trust, belief, and covenant commitment



Conclusion

Encouraged by Call and Character

- Personal involvement
- Personal perspective
- Personal response
- Personal character

