

# Acts 11:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.

## Analysis

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Luke describes Barnabas: 'he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith.' This three-fold commendation - goodness, Spirit-fullness, and faith - marks exemplary Christian character. 'Goodness' (Greek *agathos*) indicates moral excellence; Spirit-fullness empowers ministry; faith maintains confidence in God's promises. The result: 'much people was added unto the Lord.' Reformed theology sees that godly character in leaders produces fruitful ministry - not through human manipulation but through the Spirit working through sanctified vessels. Leaders' holiness matters for effective ministry.

## Historical Context

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Barnabas's ministry in Antioch circa AD 41-43 prepared the ground for Paul's later extensive work there. His character made him an ideal bridge between the Jerusalem church and the emerging Gentile mission. The 'much people' added continued Antioch's growth into a major Christian center.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. What does Barnabas's character teach about qualifications for effective ministry?
2. How does being 'full of the Holy Ghost and faith' produce ministry fruit?
3. Why does godly character in leaders matter for church growth and health?

## Interlinear Text

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ὅτι ἦν ἀνὴρ ἀγαθὸς καὶ πλήρης πνεύματος ἀγίου  
For he was man a good and full Ghost of the Holy  
G3754 G2258 G435 G18 G2532 G4134 G4151 G40

καὶ πίστεως καὶ προσετέθη ὅχλος ἰκανὸς τῷ κυρίῳ  
and of faith and was added people much G3588 unto the Lord  
G2532 G4102 G2532 G4369 G3793 G2425 G2962

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 11:21** (Faith): And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.

**Acts 5:14** (Faith): And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)

**Acts 6:5** (Faith): And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

**Acts 6:8** (Faith): And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

**Psalms 112:5** (Good): A good man sheweth favour, and lendeth: he will guide his affairs with discretion.

**2 Samuel 18:27** (Good): And the watchman said, Me thinketh the running of the foremost is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok. And the king said, He is a good man, and cometh with good tidings.

