

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

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

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

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

ὅτι	ἦν	άνηρ	άγαθός	καί	πλήρης	πνεύματος	άγίου
For	he was	man	a good	and	full	Ghost	of the Holy
G3754	G2258	G435	G18	G2532	G4134	G4151	G40
καί	πίστεως	καί	προσετέθη	ὄχλος	ίκανός	τῷ	κυρίῳ
and	of faith	and	was added	people	much	G3588	unto the Lord
G2532	G4102	G2532	G4369	G3793	G2425		G2962

Additional Cross-References

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.

