

# Acts 15:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren.

## Analysis

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As they traveled, Paul and Barnabas 'declared the conversion of the Gentiles' (Greek 'epistrophē' - turning, conversion), causing great joy among believers. This spontaneous testimony reveals the missionary heart of early Christianity. The joy of the brethren demonstrates that most Jewish Christians celebrated Gentile inclusion, contrary to the Judaizers' narrow view.

## Historical Context

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The route from Antioch to Jerusalem passed through Phoenicia (coastal region including Tyre and Sidon) and Samaria, both areas with significant Gentile populations. This allowed Paul to report firsthand the fruit of Gentile evangelism.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does genuine conversion produce joy in the wider Christian community?
2. What role does testimony play in strengthening faith and encouraging others?

3. How should we celebrate God's work among different people groups today?

## Interlinear Text

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Οἱ μὲν οὖν προπεμφθέντες ὑπὸ τῆς ἐκκλησίας  
G3588 **And** G3767 **being brought on their way** G4311 **by** G3588 **the church** G1577  
G3303  
  
διήρχοντο τὴν Φοινίκην καὶ Σαμάρειαν ἐκδιηγούμενοι  
**they passed through** G1330 G3588 **Phenice** G5403 **and** G2532 **Samaria** G4540 **declaring** G1555  
  
τὴν ἐπιστροφὴν τῶν ἐθνῶν καὶ ἐποίουν χαρὰν  
G3588 **the conversion** G1995 G3588 **of the Gentiles** G1484 **and** G2532 **they caused** G4160 **joy** G5479  
  
μεγάλην πᾶσιν τοῖς ἀδελφοῖς  
**great** G3173 **unto all** G3956 G3588 **the brethren** G80

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 14:27** (Parallel theme): And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.

**Acts 21:5** (Parallel theme): And when we had accomplished those days, we departed and went our way; and they all brought us on our way, with wives and children, till we were out of the city: and we kneeled down on the shore, and prayed.

**Acts 15:12** (Parallel theme): Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them.

**Romans 15:24** (Parallel theme): Whensoever I take my journey into Spain, I will come to you: for I trust to see you in my journey, and to be brought on my way thitherward by you, if first I be somewhat filled with your company.

**1 Corinthians 16:11** (Parallel theme): Let no man therefore despise him: but conduct him forth in peace, that he may come unto me: for I look for him with the brethren.

**1 Corinthians 16:6** (Parallel theme): And it may be that I will abide, yea, and winter with you, that ye may bring me on my journey whithersoever I go.

**Titus 3:13** (Parallel theme): Bring Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey diligently, that nothing be wanting unto them.

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