

Recap of 10/10/21 message (Joe Ricchuiti – Acts 11:23-30):

1. Antioch, one of the most immoral cities of the day, was the site of one of the most dynamic churches of the early church era. The new believers in Antioch were encouraged to: remain faithful and loyal to the Lord; and to make provision for their spiritual growth
2. One of the key characteristics of Barnabas is that he was “full of the Holy Spirit.” To be “filled with the Spirit” is to be controlled by the Spirit. We are commanded to be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18ff)
3. When we are filled: it will show in our words; it will show in our worship; it will show in our relationships; and the Fruit of the Spirit will be evident in our lives (Galatians 5:22,23)
4. The prerequisites to being filled with the Spirit are:
 - we must deal with sin in our lives (Ephesians 4:30)
 - we must consciously yield to the Spirit
 - we must allow the Spirit to have full control (Galatians 5:16)
5. Verses 25 & 26 demonstrate the importance of teaching to the church:
 - “The Christian life is radically contrary to the world, and Jesus’ call to discipleship demands a radical transformation of your entire life. God’s Word plays an important part in this exciting transformation. When you make a serious commitment to read and study it, God’s Word will begin to render dynamic changes in your thoughts and attitudes.” (Collins)
6. The gift of prophecy was a temporary, foundational gift in the church (Ephesians 2:20) which included declaring the Word of God (forthtelling) and predicting future events (foretelling). It became unnecessary after the completion of the New Testament.
7. The desire of the church at Antioch to help the saints in Judea showed the solidarity of the Jewish and Gentile Christians, and also illustrated the spiritual principle expressed by Warren Wiersbe: “...if people have been a spiritual blessing to us we should minister to them out of our material possessions”
(1 Corinthians 9:11,12; Galatians 6:6).