

Acts 11: Decline of the Church at Jerusalem and Rise of the Church at Antioch**I. The Vision Stirs Up Criticism — Some Cannot Keep Up with God's Leading (vv. 1–18)**

- A. Criticism from the circumcised — those who hinder the work of the Holy Spirit
 - 1. Those who follow traditions
 - 2. A narrow and legalistic view regarding conduct — an enemy to the Lord's work; those with this view are under bondage and put others under bondage as well
- B. Peter uses the vision to answer and explain everything — not by tradition but by revelation
 - 1. Seeing is better than mentally knowing
 - 2. Hearing is better than teaching
 - 3. What is from God cannot be opposed by anyone — accomplished by the Holy Spirit Himself
 - 4. God purposed to also give grace to the Gentiles — vision reveals God's desire

II. The Rise of the Church at Antioch — the Holy Spirit Uses a Second Group That Fits God's Desire (vv. 19–30)

- A. The church at Antioch originated from the spiritual impact Stephen had made
- B. A brand new testimony
 - 1. Not bound by religious form
 - 2. Both Jews and Gentiles have received grace
 - 3. The Lord was with them — evidence of the Lord's favor
- C. Barnabas is added into service — a man full of the Holy Spirit and faith
 - 1. Not influenced by tradition
 - 2. Preferred only what was of God
 - 3. Grace upon grace to strengthen and build up the Lord's church
- D. The addition of Paul leads to a greater revival
 - 1. Service with strength upon strength
 - 2. The origin of the term Christians — more like Christ
- E. God's word appears in Antioch — prophecy by Agabus
- F. The church at Antioch desires to fellowship in love and without bias — supported the brethren in Judea out of their means during the famine