Characteristics of A Spirit-led Healthy Church

Acts 11:19–30



WHAT DOES A HEALTHY CHURCH LOOK LIKE?



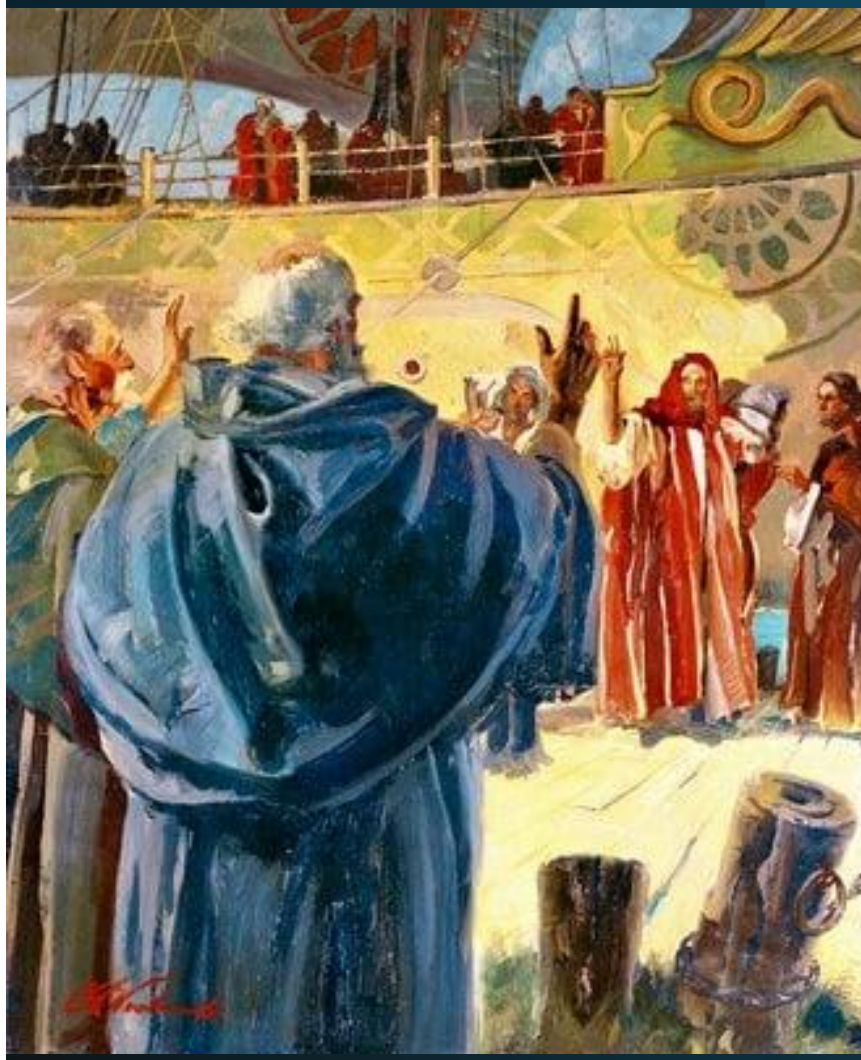
Bodies, Buildings, Budgets and Busyness?

Not Necessarily

- *Large but spiritually weak*
- *Activities but little mission*
- *Wealthy but indifferent to the poor and needy*

Acts 11:19–30
The Birth of An International Church

A healthy growing Spirit-led church that is centred on Christ, sensitive to the Spirit, committed to discipleship, developed servant leadership, and moved by love to meet the needs of others generously.



Acts 11:19–30 The Church in Antioch

19 Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed travelled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews. 20 Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus.

21 The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

22 News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23 When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.

24 He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith,
and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.
25 Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul,
26 and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch.
So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with
the church and taught great numbers of people.
The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

27 During this time some prophets came down from
Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 One of them, named Agabus,
stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe
famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This
happened during the reign of Claudius.) 29 The disciples,
as each one was able, decided to provide help for the
brothers and sisters living in Judea. 30 This they did,
sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

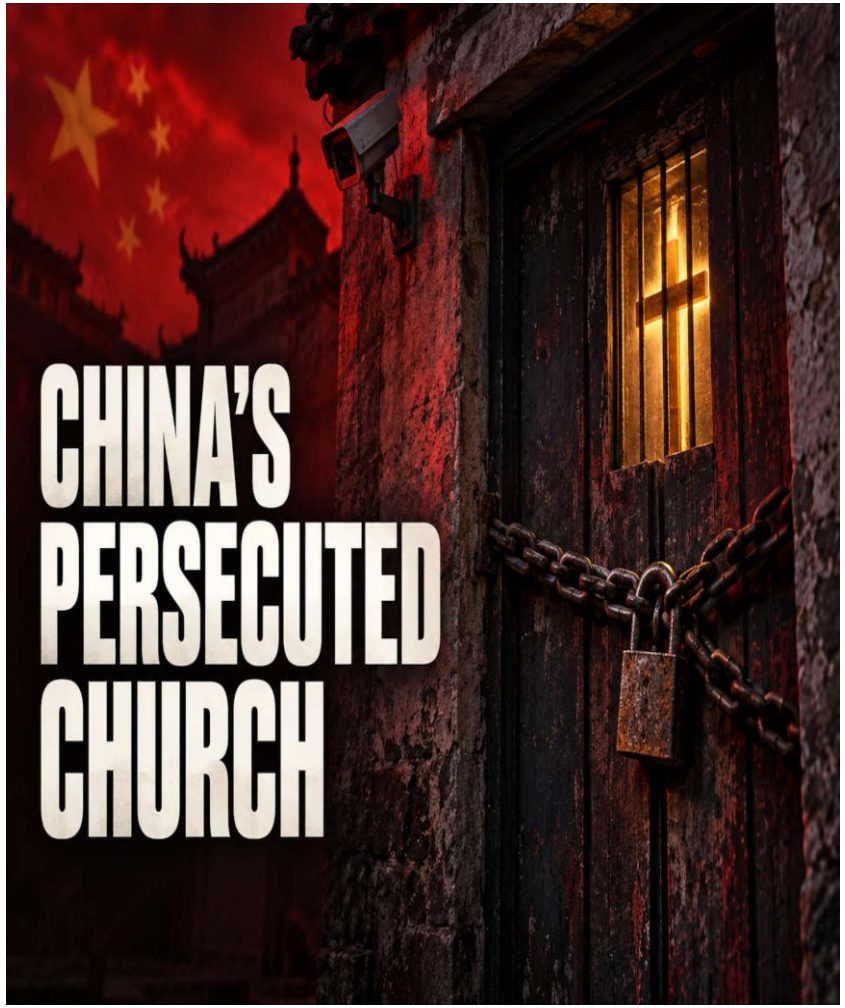


Acts 11:19–30
Three Characteristics of a Healthy Church

1. **Shares Christ** – Evangelism and Mission
2. **Grows in Christ** - Leadership and Discipleship
3. **Gives to Others** - Generous Stewardship

1. A HEALTHY CHURCH SHARES CHRIST

"Those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed travelled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews."



Evangelism

Missional, Mission-Minded church

Persecution Became Propagation

Mission happens wherever God's people go



Crossed Cultural Boundaries

"Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus."

Breaking Boundaries

Jesus is Lord of every nation

The Secret of Fruitfulness

"The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord."

God is at Work!

They shared.

But God worked!

Be Dependent upon God's Grace and Spirit's Power



2. A HEALTHY CHURCH GROWS IN CHRIST

22 News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. "When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts."





Discipleship

Grow in Number and Maturity

Grows in their love, knowledge, and heart devotion to the Lord

First Called "Christians"

Followers of Christ

Belonging to the party of Christ

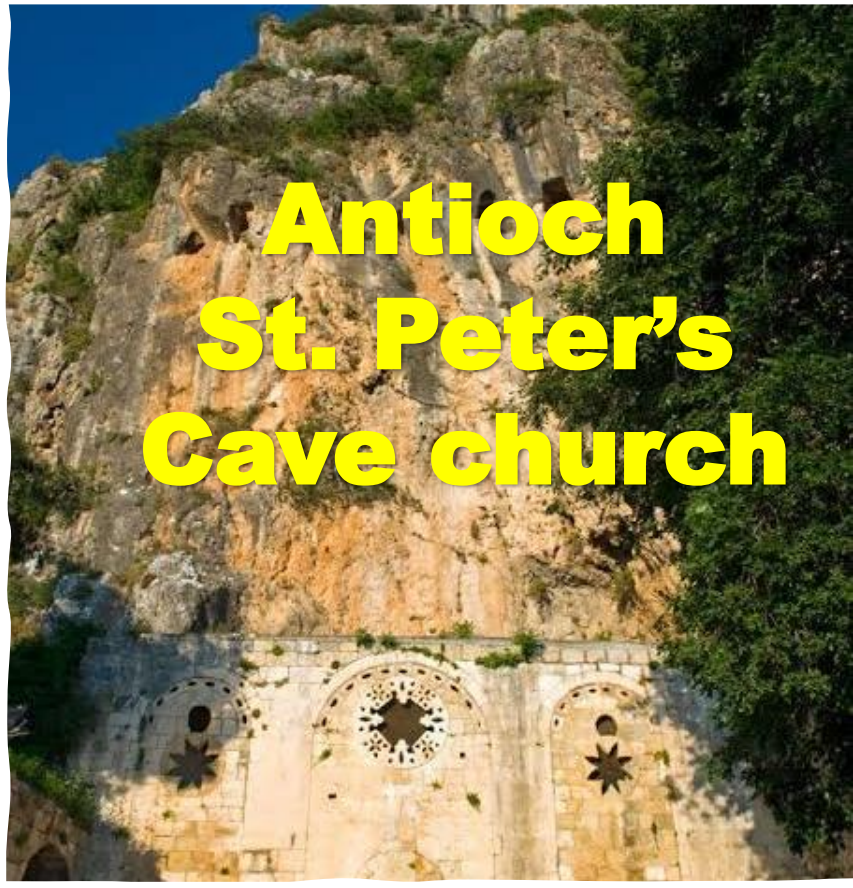
Not merely to know about Christ, but to become like Christ.

A healthy church therefore asks:

Are people becoming more like Jesus?

Growing in prayer, Scripture,
holiness, maturity, love,
generosity, obedience, witness.





Barnabas was a Spiritual Encourager

"He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith."

- **Good**
  Character of Christ
- **Full of the Spirit**
  Power of Christ
- **Full of faith**
  Trust and Obedient in Christ



Empowering Leadership

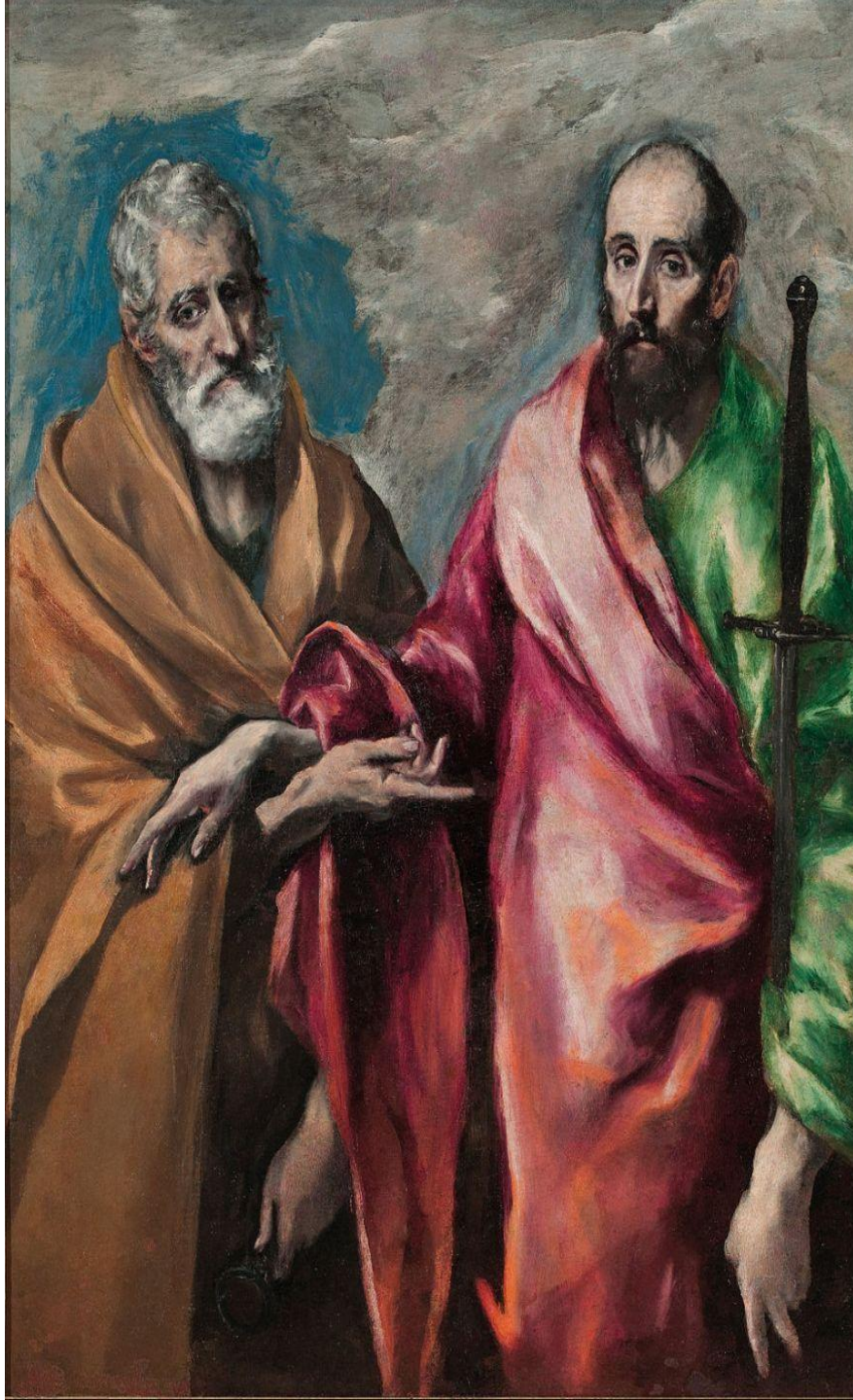
"Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul… he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people.

Mentorship

Develop & Raise New Leaders

Not: *"How can I keep my position?"*

Asks: *"Whom can I prepare to carry the work forward?"*

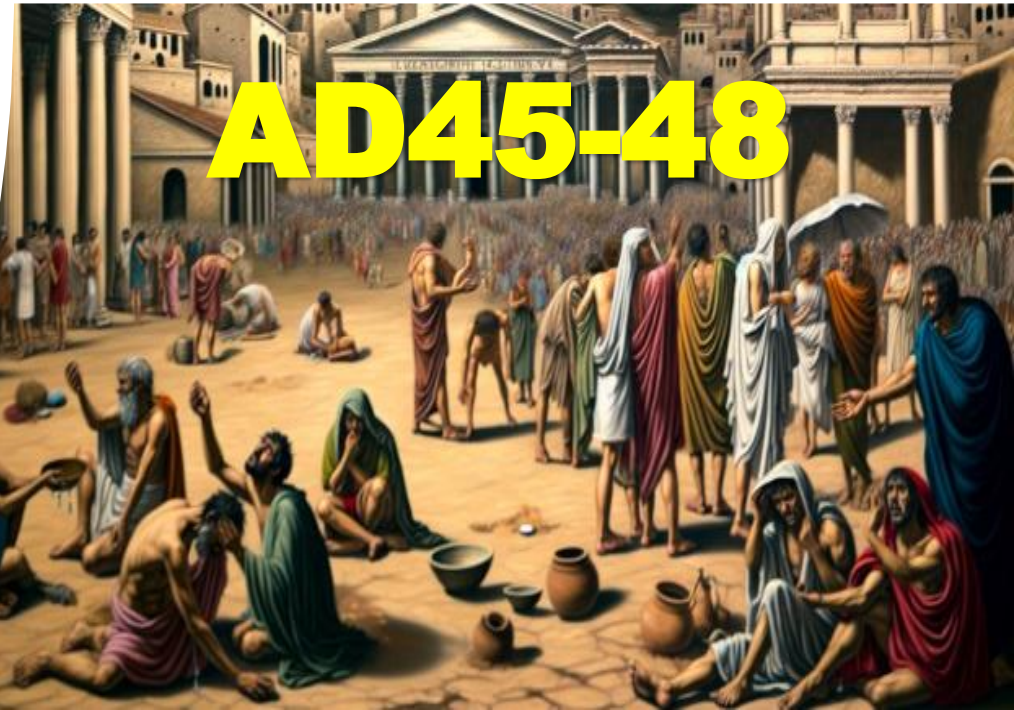


3. A HEALTHY CHURCH GIVES TO OTHERS



Prophets come from Jerusalem

27 During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.



One of them, Agabus predicts a severe famine

a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (happened during the reign of Claudius AD 41-54)

They Give Willingly

"decided to provide help"

That's Part of Mission!

Mission is not simply going but also giving generously

Prayed but also Give.

Give According to Ability

"as each one was able"



Good Stewardship and Accountability

30 This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

Same in 1 Cor. 16:1-4

Paul makes weekly collection and sends money from the Corinthians together with the Galatian to Jerusalem with letter of introduction and creditable men.



They Give Generously

Compassionate
Kingdom Mindset
A healthy church looks beyond itself
"How can we bless others?"

Danger of Inward Looking
Our members. Our comfort & needs.
Our buildings, finances, ministries.





Mission Includes Compassionate Action

Proclaim Christ and demonstrate Christ's love

Evangelism and Compassion go Together

Truth and love. Word and deed.

Everyone is called to participate in the mission

Not spectators but participants.

Not everyone does the same thing

Some preach, teach, pray, give, visit, cook, organise…



HLCE BE A SPIRIT-LED HEALTHY THRIVING MISSION CHURCH

- **SHARES CHRIST -** *All ministries are for outreach*
- **GROWS IN CHRIST -** *Discipleship and raising new leaders.*
- **GIVES TO OTHERS -** *Mission giving around 50% of income.*

HLCE Theme 2026 - Church on the Move

The Spirit Empowered Mission and Service

