



# THE BARNABAS FACTOR

## DYNAMICS OF CHARACTER

### “EVIDENCE OF THE GRACE OF GOD” (Acts 11:22-26)

“When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts” (Acts 11:23).

*“The first test of a truly great man is his humility. I do not mean by humility, doubt of his own power. But really great men have a curious feeling that the greatness is not in them, but through them. And they see something divine in every other man and are endlessly, foolishly, incredibly merciful.” —John Ruskin*

#### I. “A LIGHT FROM HEAVEN” (Acts 8:1; 9:1-9)

- A. Saul’s conversion on the road to Damascus.
- B. The vision of Jesus Christ.

#### II. “A DISCIPLE NAMED ANANIAS” (Acts 9:10-19)

- A. The second Ananias’ submissive service.
- B. Saul’s blindness removed (v. 18)

#### III. “TO LOOK FOR SAUL” (Acts 11:22-30)

- A. Peter’s vision of ministry (11:1-21)
- B. Barnabas’ mentoring of Saul (11:26)

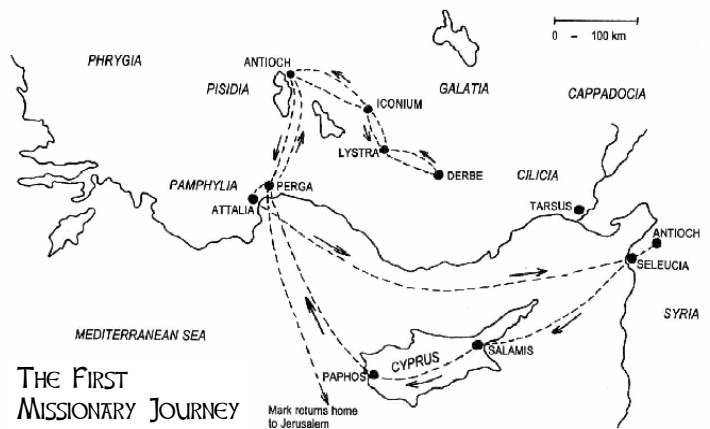
#### IV. “BARNABAS AND PAUL...SET APART”

(Acts 13, 14)

- A. Message of encouragement in Antioch (13:15)
- B. The promotion of Paul...no longer “Barnabas and Saul”, but “Paul and Barnabas”
- C. Mistaken identity at Lystra (14:11-13)

#### V. “TAUGHT AND PREACHED THE WORD” (Acts 11-15)

- A. Discipling period (Acts 11-13)
- B. Dissension testing (Acts 15:36-40; Galatians 2:13)
- C. Dedicated partnership (Acts 13-15)



*“Where there is pride, all want to lead and none want to follow or to agree...Hence also is the cause of ineffective ministry of far too many ministers who are simply too proud to learn. ... Humility should teach us to learn willingly everything we do not know. For if we would be wiser than all, then we must be willing to learn from all. For they who receive from all will be richer.” — Richard Baxter*

#### FOR REFLECTION...

1. What were the reasons and needs for the unique happenings in the beginnings of the Church age?
2. What are your thoughts regarding the day of Pentecost phenomena, the miracles of the disciples, the sign gifts of tongues and healings, the judgment of Ananias and Sapphira, and the dramatic conversion of Saul?
3. In some appearances, Barnabas may seem so retiring as to be insignificant. Even in the shadow of Paul, what marked him for greatness?
4. How would you assess God’s sovereign design in blending the ministries of Peter, Paul, and Barnabas? What might this teach us regarding the function of the Church today?
5. If Barnabas were to candidate for a pastoral position today, would we give him a call? Why?