

# About Moving Forward

## Acts 11:19-26 (NIV)

### 1. Realize That the Biggest Threat May Be Staying Where You Are Currently, vs 19.

*Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch...*

### 2. Open Your Life to New Possibilities and Opportunities, vs. 20.

*... spreading the word only among Jews. 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.*

### 3. Join God Where He Is at Work, 21.

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

*John 5:17 (NIV) "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working."*

*John 9:4 (NIV) As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.*

### 4. Find a Personal Encourager, vss. 22-24.

*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. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.*

#### The Spiritual Gift of Encouragement Is:

- Affirming – “saw what the grace of God had done.”
- Positive – “he was glad.”
- Motivating – “encouraged them to remain true.”
- Challenging – “with all your hearts.”
- Trustworthy – “he was a good man.”
- Spirit Filled – “full of the Holy Spirit.”
- Reassuring – “and faith.”

### 5. Pass It On!

*Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 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.*

*2 Cor. 1:3-4 What a wonderful God we have—he is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of every mercy, and the one who so wonderfully comforts and strengthens us in our hardships and trials. And why does he do this? So that when others are troubled, needing our sympathy and encouragement, we can **pass on** to them this same help and comfort God has given us.*