

Nothing is Impossible ... When the Hand of the Lord is Upon Us*

Text: Acts 11:19–30

Heritage Church, Van Buren, AR

April 12, 2026

Unmistakable Marks of God's Hand on His People

1. Radical Conversions

Acts 11:19-24 ¹⁹ Now those who had been scattered as a result of the persecution that started because of Stephen made their way as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. ²⁰ But there were some of them, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks also, proclaiming the good news about the Lord Jesus. ²¹ **The Lord's hand was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord.** ²² News about them reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to travel as far as Antioch. ²³ When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged all of them to remain true to the Lord with devoted hearts, ²⁴ for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And large numbers of people were added to the Lord.

2. Category-Defying Community

Acts 11:20 ²⁰ But there were some of them, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and began speaking to the **Greeks also**, proclaiming the good news about the Lord Jesus.

Acts 13:1-3 Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called **Niger**, Lucius of **Cyrene**, Manaen, a close friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

² As they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³ Then after they had fasted, prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them off. **See Galatians 3:28**

3. Unprecedented Generosity

Acts 11:27-30 ²⁷ In those days some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸ One of them, named Agabus, stood up and predicted by the Spirit that there would be a severe famine throughout the Roman world. This took place during the reign of Claudius. ²⁹ Each of the disciples, according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brothers and sisters who lived in Judea. ³⁰ They did this, sending it to the elders by means of Barnabas and Saul. See also **Acts 2:44-25; 4:32-37**

4. Destiny-Releasing Leadership

Acts 11:25-26b ²⁵ Then [Barnabas] went to Tarsus to search for Saul, ²⁶ and when he found him he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught large numbers.

5. A New Cultural Identity in Christ

Acts 11:26c The disciples were first called Christians at Antioch.
Acts 19:17 The name of the LORD Jesus was held in high esteem!

NEXT STEP: PRAY! **Acts 4:29-31** ... [LORD] **stretch out your hand** for healing, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus. ... "

*The outline for this message is from Jon Tyson