

March 8, 2015

SETTING A NEW DIRECTION FOR LIFE

**Living the Church's Story**

**Acts 11:1-12:5**

The book of Acts is the continued story of God's transforming power at work in and through the lives of the disciples of Jesus. We see the truth of His words from **Acts 1:8** become a reality: ***"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*** These words of Jesus are a reminder for us today of our responsibility to fulfill His purpose and plan by living as His church.

1. **We must live in complete submission to God.**

*"So if God gave them the same gift as He gave us, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God?"* **Acts 11:17 (NIV)**

2. **We must face life's adversities with courage and confidence.**

*"Now those who had been scattered by the persecution in connection with Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, telling the message only to Jews."*

**Acts 11:19 (NIV)**

*"It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword."* **Acts 12:1-2 (NIV)**

3. **We must live and proclaim true repentance to Jesus!**

*"When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, 'So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life.'"* **Acts 11:18 (NIV)**

*"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. The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord."* **Acts 11:20-21 (NIV)**

4. **We must live and give with generosity.**

*"The disciples, each according to his ability, decided to provide help for the brothers living in Judea."* **Acts 11:29 (NIV)**

5. **We must be people who pray for God's kingdom to come!**

*"So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him."* **Acts 12:5 (NIV)**