A NEW KINGDOM: A Different Kind of People
November 22, 2026 | Dr. Kirk Walters
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[22] But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! [24] Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. [25] Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.
Galatians 5:22-25 NLT

It was at Antioch that the believers were first called Christians.
Acts 11:26b NLT

1. They Handled Persecution Differently

Meanwhile, the believers who had been scattered during the persecution after Stephen's death traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch of Syria. They preached the word of God…
Acts 11:19a NLT

What the enemy intended to stop the Church, God used to spread the Church.

Our circumstances may change, but our calling doesn't.

2. They Handled Prejudice Differently

[19] They preached the word of God, but only to Jews. [20] However, some of the believers who went to Antioch from Cyprus and Cyrene began preaching to the Gentiles about the Lord Jesus. [21] The power of the Lord was with them, and a large number of these Gentiles believed and turned to the Lord.[22] When the church at Jerusalem heard what had happened, they sent Barnabas to Antioch. [23] When he arrived and saw this evidence of God's blessing, he was filled with joy, and he encouraged the believers to stay true to the Lord. [24] Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and strong in faith. And many people were brought to the Lord.
Acts 11:19b–24 NLT

The Kingdom of God is bigger than the barriers people build between themselves.

The gospel isn't reserved for people who already fit into our world.

3. They Handled Fear Differently

[25] Then Barnabas went on to Tarsus to look for Saul. [26] When he found him, he brought him back to Antioch. Both of them stayed there with the church for a full year, teaching large crowds of people. (It was at Antioch that the believers were first called Christians.)
Acts 11:25–26 NLT

We shouldn't allow someone's past to blind us to what God can do in their future.

4. They Handled Faith Differently

[27] During this time some prophets traveled from Jerusalem to Antioch. [28] One of them named Agabus stood up in one of the meetings and predicted by the Spirit that a great famine was coming upon the entire Roman world. (This was fulfilled during the reign of Claudius.) [29] So the believers in Antioch decided to send relief to the brothers and sisters in Judea, everyone giving as much as they could. [30] This they did, entrusting their gifts to Barnabas and Saul to take to the elders of the church in Jerusalem.
Acts 11:27–30 NLT

Faith doesn't simply change what we believe about the future. It changes how we respond to the future.

A different kind of faith produces a different kind of response.