

The Antioch Call To Go To The Nations! (Acts 13:1-52)

I. PRAYER & FASTING BIRTHS SIGN & WONDERS

- A. Fasting and prayer releases supernatural events that are on the heart of God. As the early church leaders came together in prayer and fasting, the Holy Spirit told them what to do.

“As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them’. Then having fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away” Acts 13:2-3.

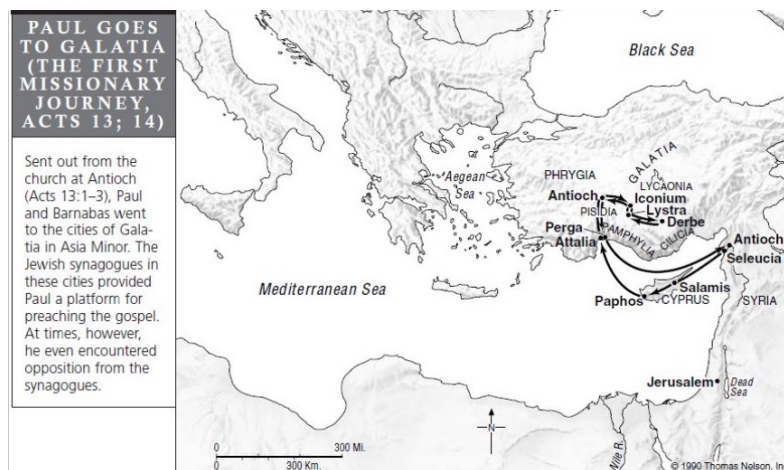
- B. Notice it says, “They ministered to the Lord”! The word means, to serve the Lord as in attendant waiting upon Him. In other words, they performed their priestly duties (Lk. 1:22-23). The Holy Spirit said, “Separate to Me... for the work to which I have called them!”
- C. “When the Church discovers direction for and advances all ministry in and through prayer, we will see opposition and unbelief bow before us as, once again. God confirms His Word with signs and wonders”.¹

II. PREACHING AT CYPRUS

- A. Paul and Barnabas began their first missionary journey preaching the gospel. There are some who criticize people in the prayer movement for just “sitting around and praying”, but the reality is, when people give themselves to prayer, God speaks and sends people forth to do His work.

“So being sent by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.” (V4).

- B. Daniel Lim, the CEO of IHOPKC prophesied over us in 2012, “God is putting the “I” for “International” into who you are! Since that time we have seen the Lord sending people from the prayer community to the nations, and bringing people from the nations to our doorsteps.



¹ Spirit Filled Life Bible Kingdom Dynamics - page 1650

III. OPPOSITION TO THE GOSPEL MET BY THE POWER OF GOD

- A. There were people who opposed the Gospel then, like there are today. Elymas the sorcerer attempted to turn proconsul Sergius Paulus away from hearing the gospel.
- “When they had gone through the island of Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar-Jesus, who was with the proconsul Sergius Paulus, and intelligent man. This man called for Barnabas and Paul and sought to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith” (Vv. 6-7).***
- B. The proconsul was hungry for God but the sorcerer withstood him. Sorcery is a form of witchcraft used to perform false signs and wonders to manipulate and control people, and it is strictly forbidden in scripture. (Ex. 7:11, 22:18, 1Sam. 15:23, Gal 5:19-21, Rev. 9:21, 22:15).
- C. As believers, we should stay clear of books and games whose roots involves sorcery, such as Harry Potter, Dungeons and Dragons etc. Derek Prince has several books that help us understand the background and affects these things can have on people. Instead, we should focus on God and the Holy Spirit and want to foster things that promote His presence in our lives and families.
- D. As parents, we need to watch over our children, especially around other kids. If you have kids in public school or even Christian school, you need to know who their friends are and what values are in their homes, and what your kids are learning from them.
- E. The apostle Paul, through the gift of discernment, saw what was happening and dealt with the evil spirit operating in the sorcerer.
- “Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him and said, ‘O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord? And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time’. And immediately a dark mist fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had been done, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord” (Acts 13:9-12).***
- F. There is great deliverance in the Power of the Holy Spirit! The Lord confirmed the preaching of His word with signs and wonders following.

IV. THE ANTIOCH CALL TO THE NATIONS

- A. The delegation returned to Antioch in Pisidia (Present day Turkey) where they preached in the synagogue. Acts 13:17-41 is a typical Book of Acts sermon, outlining the entire plan of God for salvation, beginning at the beginning of time to present day.
- B. The preaching caused many gentiles to hear the Word which caused jealousy among the Jews, resulting in greater outreach to the surrounding Gentile nations (Acts 13:42-46).
- “I have set you as alight to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth”***