

Ignition

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 2:1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord^[fn] in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles...46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church^[fn] daily those who were being saved.

Acts 9. Saul gets Saved - With a massive gulf between Jews and the Greek and Roman cultures - the advance of the Gospel into the uttermost parts of the world would require a uniquely gifted redeemed, reconciled rebel. Tremendous knowledge of the Hebrew Scriptures. This person also needed at home in the Hellenistic culture, with its arts, philosophy and religion. Gospel connector.

Jesus knew exactly **who** this person was. Jesus knew exactly **where** to find him!

In **Acts 10** we have the next major event in the advance of the Gospel. The Gospel is preached by Peter in the sea port city of Caesarea to a totally gentile audience in the house of a Roman centurion named Cornelius. They believed the Gospel and were baptized.

God made it clear that the Gospel is not just for the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. **The missing piece** in God’s economy for the Authentic Mission of the church was a launching pad.

Acts 11:19 Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. 20 But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. 21 And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.

22 Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. 23 When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. 24 For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.

Those who were sent out from Jerusalem were sent to encourage believers.

Jerusalem was the “mother church”. Antioch was going to be the sending church. The church in Jerusalem no longer occupies center stage.

Peter will no longer be the central figure. Saul becomes the central figure in Luke’s history. The church in Antioch becomes the base of operation for Saul’s ministry.

1 Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 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." 3 Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.

4 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. 5 And when they arrived in Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. They also had John as their assistant.

6 Now when they had gone through the island^[fn] to Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar-Jesus, 7 who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man called for Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. 8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. 9 Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him 10 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? 11 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. 12 Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had been done, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

Pray

1 Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

In [Acts 12:25](#), we learn Barnabas, Saul, and John Mark were all at the church in Antioch

Barnabas was a Jew from Cyprus (4:36).

Simeon was also a Jew. But he had a Latin nickname. His nickname (Niger) tells us that he had a dark complexion. But that nickname was Latin — which tells us that he moved in Roman circles. Many scholars believe this to be the Simon of Cyrene who carried Christ's cross (Matt. 27:32; Mark 15:21).

Lucius was from Cyrene in North Africa (Libya) (cf. Acts 11:20).

Manaen mentioned here grew up with **Herod the tetrarch**. This was the same Herod who beheaded John the Baptist and presided over one of Jesus' trials ([Luke 23:7-12](#)) -

Last, but not least, **Saul**, a Jewish Rabbi from Tarsus, trained in Jerusalem at the feet of Gamaliel.

Eph 4:11-12 11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

Jesus preparing to launch the Gospel into the uttermost parts of the world.

To do that He lavishes gifts on the church in Antioch to build it up and equip it for the mission He had before them; and what is it that He lavishes upon them? Through each of these ministry gifts Jesus lavishes upon them THE WORD OF GOD.

Each of these ministries center on, and are the means of, bringing to man the one thing essential to knowing, loving and serving Jesus: **They all bring the Word of God to man!**

The Word of God alone, that saves. It's the Word of God alone that transforms. It is the Word of God alone that grows us. It is the Word of God alone that equips us. Anything less leaves us lost, unchanged, immature and utterly unequipped for mission.

2 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."

As they ministered to the Lord: Ministering to the Lord means doing what pleases Him and honors Him – worship, praise, prayer, listening to, honoring God.

leitourgeo = a compound from "public" and "work" -Originally it referred to someone who did public service at their own expense. - Ministered (worshipped) in the Septuagint = the service of priests and Levites in the temple.

Liturgy - We are called to provide our very lives as a living sacrifice — "All that we are, all that we do, all that we ever hope to become, poured out to Jesus and for His glory."

These 5 men didn't view the church in Antioch as the place where they got to exercise their gifts for their glory or for their personal gratification. They saw the church as the place where they would serve God with the gifts they received from Him so that men and women would see God's glory and respond by worshipping the God of glory and living for the glory of God.

Ministry is vertical before it's horizontal! When most believers think of "ministering" they usually think of it as something that one does for another man or woman. They very rarely think of it as something that is done in direct relationship to the Lord.

As part of their service to the Lord, **they also fasted**. They fasted because they sensed a need to seek God in a special way. - Sensed a need for clarity, wisdom, direction ...

The Holy Spirit said: Presumably, the call came through the ministry of prophets in the church at Antioch, though it could have come simply through the **inner witness of the Holy Spirit**.

Separate to Me: Before Barnabas and Saul could do anything significant for God, they first had to be separated to Him. If you will separate **to** God, it means you must separate from some other things.

Set apart for me = to mark off boundaries or horizon. The two men called to missionary service were – and as far as we know – the two most gifted and ab

For the work to which I have called them: God had a specific **work** He had appointed to Barnabas and Saul to do.

[Ephesians 2:10](#): *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

[Acts 9:15-16](#): *He is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake.*

Now meant there was to be no delay.

3 Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.

Faster + Prayer = dependence on God

And laid hands on them: a formal commissioning to this work

They sent them away: They were supported and **sent** by a specific congregation. As far as we know, this had never happened before in the history of the church. **Hard to stay - Hard to Go - God's timing - Peace of the Lord does not equal emotional/physical comfort**

Mission = Sent The first real known *missionary* effort of the church.

No program - just the call, witness, and empowering of the Holy Spirit

QUOTE: Henry Martyn (Missionary to India and Persia) — “The Spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions, and the nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we must become.”

The first intentional missionary outreach was birthed and directed as they were ministering worship and praise and adoration to the Lord.

How often do we think of worship as birthing missions? How often do we think of the Lord directing the Church in the context of devotion.

it is in the environment of worship that, HE SPEAKS to His church corporately and individually! HE DIRECTS His church corporately and individually!, HE CALLS His church corporately and individually to mission!, HE SENDS!

Direction, or calling, or sending, happens in the context of corporate worship, personal worship and worshipful service.

4 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. 5 And when they arrived in Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. They also had John as their assistant.

The **Holy Spirit** sent them - God the Holy Spirit is the sending authority. This is what we mean when we say that Gospel work is God work. Want the confidence and motivation it is God's will.

It is the business of the Holy Spirit to call, gift, direct, and empower. The local church is the agency the Holy Spirit uses. The business of the local church is to be subject to the authority of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches (Revelation 2:7)*.

One definition of **authority** is = the RIGHT to do something. The authority of any minister or ministry is utterly dependent upon, the authority derived from the calling, gifting, commissioning, and empowering of the Holy Spirit.

When they arrived in Salamis: We are not told *why* they went to Cyprus first, but we do know Barnabas grew up on that island ([Acts 4:36](#)).

It was actually nicknamed "the Happy Isle" because its climate was so perfect and its resources so plentiful that a man could find everything necessary for a happy life there.

They preached the word of God in the synagogues: This custom of the open synagogue gave Barnabas and Saul many opportunities to preach. This tradition invited any learned man to speak to the people of the synagogue at the Sabbath meeting.

They also had John as their assistant: This man, also known as *John Mark*, was mentioned previously in [Acts 12:25](#). The same Mark who later wrote the Gospel that bears his name.

John was there to "assist" Paul and Barnabas. Here's the his job description. Literally, "under-rower" . The job of the under rower was to get everyone and everything above him to their destination.

6 Now when they had gone through the island to Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar-Jesus, 7 who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man called for Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God.

Paphos: This city on the west coast of Cyprus was known for its immorality.

“Paphos was infamous for its worship of Venus, the goddess of [sexual] love” It was a 90 mile journey to Paphos (on the west end of the island).

The proconsul, Sergius Paulus: intelligent man - hold it together, crumble under his scrutiny, searching, looking for something to hold him together. Searching for meaning and purpose in life

8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. 9 Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him 10 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? 11 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.

Elymas. His real name was *Bar-Jesus* ([Acts 13:6](#)) which means “son of Jesus,” and Luke couldn’t bear to call him that. We should not be surprised or shaken by opposition. We need to understand that Gospel opportunities are always going to include opposition to the Gospel.

Saul, who also is called Paul: Jewish name = Saul - Roman name was **Paul** – which meant “Little” and sounded similar to “Saul.” When his father called him he shouted, ‘Saul, Saul!’ but when the Greek boys with whom he played called him they shouted, ‘Paul, Paul!’”

Filled with the Holy Spirit...Said, “O full of all deceit and all fraud”: Paul, using spiritual discernment and operating in the gift of faith, rebuked and pronounced the judgment of God upon Elymas (**you shall be blind**).

As Elymas was struck with blindness, we can’t help but think Paul would remember his own experience with God. Paul was struck blind at his conversion on the road to Damascus ([Acts 9:9](#)).

It must be the heart that loves Sergius Paulus that speaks in anger to Elymas the sorcerer.

12 Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had been done, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

When he saw what had been done: Among other things, we can say that the proconsul saw something in Paul and something in Elymas.

He saw the *courage* of Paul. Here was a man of conviction, bold in his belief, and willing to make a stand for what he believed.

Being astonished at the teaching of the Lord: His astonishment is said to be at the **teaching of the Lord** not the miraculous work before his eyes.