

ACTS

THE PERPETUAL POWER OF THE GOSPEL

Steadfast Purpose
Acts 11 & 13:1-3

Acts 11:19-30; 13:2-3

Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. ²⁰ But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. ²¹ And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. ²² The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. ²³ When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, 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.

25 So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

27 Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius). 29 So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea. 30 And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

Acts 13:1-3

Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ² While 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 fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

The Spread of the Gospel



Acts 1:8

...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

The Community of Encouragement

²³ When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he ***exhorted*** them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose...

Barnabas – “Son of Encouragement”
Parakaleo

“Para”

**Come alongside
Relational
Community**

Grace

“Kaleo”

**Directional
Challenging**

Truth

The Direction of Encouragement

What is your aim and goal in life?

(how would a stranger answer that for you?)

What is the aim of our church?

(how would a visitor answer that?)

²³ When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with **steadfast purpose**...



Growth

²⁵ So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul,
²⁶ and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.



Worship

13:2 While they were
worshiping the Lord and
fasting, the Holy Spirit
said...



Mission

Word

²⁰ some of them...spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus.

Deed

²⁹ every one according to his ability (sent) relief to the brothers living in Judea.



Power

21 And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord.

13:2 While 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.”

“You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless, until they can find rest in you.”

Augustine (c. 400 B.C.)

Augustine tried everything from excessive pleasure to intellect to accomplishment, only to be left empty over and over again. He finally threw up his hands and cried “How long, Oh Lord.” And God met him there.

The Source of Encouragement

Paraklete

Spirit

John 14:26

But the *Helper, the Holy Spirit*, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Jesus

1 John 2:1

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.