



Power From on High

Series: Power From On High.
Title: What Makes a Powerful,
Effective Church?
Lesson: 69

Text: Acts 13:1-12
Date: March 24, 2024

Chapter 13 marks a significant division in the book of Acts

Chapters 1-12

Jerusalem church

Phase 1-2 is
completed

Peter

Chapters 13-28

Antioch church

Phase 3 is
introduced

Saul

Acts 13:1–12 Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was there, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 While they were ministering to 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, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their 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 When they reached Salamis, they began to proclaim the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews; and they also

had John as their helper. 6 When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they found a magician, a Jewish false prophet whose name was Bar-Jesus, 7 who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence. This man summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. 8 But Elymas the magician (for so his name is translated) was opposing them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

9 But Saul, who was also known as Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze on him, 10 and said, "You who are full of all deceit and fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord? 11 "Now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and not see the sun for a time." And immediately a mist and a darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking those who would lead him by the hand. 12 Then the proconsul believed when he saw what had happened, being amazed at the teaching of the Lord.

What makes a powerful, effective church?

1. Genuine born again _____

Acts 13:1–12 Now there were at Antioch, in the **church** ~~that was there, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.~~

Acts 11:21 And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who **believed turned to the Lord.**

2. Biblical _____

A. _____ of leaders.

Acts 13:1–12 Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was there, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

“prophets”

“teachers”

B. _____ leadership

C. Solid _____

Acts 11:26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And ***for an entire year*** they met with the church and ***taught*** considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

3. _____ hard after the Lord

2 While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

"ministering" to the Lord

2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved **to to God** as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

"fasting"

4. Submission to the _____

2 While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

"Holy Spirit said"

"While"

"Set apart" - "for Me"

"called"

Galatians 1:15 But when God, who had **set me apart** even from my mother's womb and **called** me through His grace, was pleased

“from my mother’s womb”

**God sovereignly _____
us to serve in the work He chooses.**

3 Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

5. Obedient to proclaim the _____.

4 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

5 When they reached Salamis, they began to proclaim the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews; and they also had John as their helper.

“proclaim the word of God”

6 When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they found a magician, a Jewish false prophet whose name was Bar-Jesus,

“Bar-Jesus”

“Bar” = Son - **“Jesus”** = Yehoshua

7 who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence.

7b This man summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God.

8 **BUT** Elymas the magician (for so his name is translated) was opposing them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

“opposing”

6. Courage to _____ those in
who oppose us.

9 **BUT** Saul, who was also known as Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze on him, 10 and said, “You who are full of all deceit and fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord?

11 “Now, **BEHOLD**, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and not see the sun for a time.” And immediately a mist and a darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking those who would lead him by the hand.

7. Spiritual _____

12 Then the proconsul believed when he saw what had happened, being amazed at the teaching of the Lord.

Implication

Even though we should expect opposition, remember that the _____ is more powerful than the kingdom of darkness.

Discussion Guide

1. Why is a plurality of elders important? What are the benefits?
2. Why is male leadership important?

Read 2 Timothy 2:11-13 and discuss what Paul says about the role of women and men.

Why does verse 13 prohibit women from being elders?

3. According to Acts 13:2-3, how does God place believers into ministry? How does that align with their giftedness?
4. Do you believe EastPointe is zealous to give the gospel and are we prepared for the opposition when it comes?
5. How do we reconcile Paul's sharp rebuke of Bar-Jesus when the zeitgeist (spirit of the age) is demanding tolerance?



ANSWERS: believers, leadership, Plurality, Male, teaching, Seek, Holy Spirit, predestines, gospel, Son of Salvation, rebuke, impact, gospel