

Sermon Series:
“Giving Your Life Away”
“Empowered and Sent by Holy Spirit”

Nov. 29, 2009
Acts 13:1-3



Time in the Word

Read & Ponder: Acts 13:1-3

It's a short little passage—only 3 verses. Yet the 13th chapter of Acts tells the story of the start of something big—the mission to the Gentiles. If you are a believer in Jesus, and don't have Jewish roots, this is the beginning of your story. Once again, if you were to find that one thing in this passage that speaks to you, what is it?

Answer

1. The church and its leaders (verse 1)
 - a. As the story begins, the church of Antioch is highlighted. It tells us that in this church were “prophets and teachers”. What was the role of each in the early church?
 - b. Why wouldn't God just give a church all teachers or all prophets? Why do you need both?
 - c. As you look at the names listed, do you get any sense of the ethnic makeup of this church (this answer takes a little research)? Is it significant at all that Saul (later to be called Paul) is listed dead last?
 - d. The opening words “in the church” tell us something about how teachers and prophets operate. What does this phrase imply? Could you have “teachers and prophets unattached to the church”? Ever met any?
2. What God said to the teachers and prophets (verse 2)
 - a. What were the leaders doing in verse two when the Holy Spirit spoke to them? Ponder this for a bit—why is worship and fasting so important in this situation?
 - b. Talk through the “how” of this. How did the Holy Spirit make it known to a group what He wanted them to do? Did He first speak to a prophet who then relayed the message; did everyone hear an audible voice at once; was it an internal “feeling” that everybody got???
 - c. How important was it that they all heard? What if Saul just showed up one day and said, “I think God wants Barnabas and I to go on a mission”? What would be wrong with that?
3. The Response (verse 3)
 - a. After they all heard the voice of the Spirit, what did they do?



Time for the Heart

It is a pretty common thing in life for people today to say “I think God wants me to” (fill in the blank). How do we know at those times that it is really God and not just our own desires speaking? What role does the church play in confirming our call into a certain ministry? Do you have something on your heart that you sense is the “tug of the

Holy Spirit"? Why not bring it to your small group and ask them to pray with you, so that you can confirm that it really is God? Got no tug?? Maybe for you it is time to ask those who know you to pray that God would put a fire of desire in your heart.