

**Series:** The Acts of the Apostles: To Judea/Samaria VIII

**Text:** Acts 13:1-12

**HI: God's Spirit proves that his word is true.**

**Title:** *The Genuine Article*

**Hook:** 'Prove it'

**Date:** 5.14.23

**Purpose:** To call God's people to proclaim the gospel with confidence that his Spirit will authenticate his word.

**FCF:** The fact that God's Spirit authenticates his word should build the resolve of his people to proclaim the gospel, knowing that the same Spirit who empowered the early church dwells in them.

**COR:** People from every nation and background are interested in the truth. The temptation to channel superstitious practices in order to get at the truth is as common today as it was in the world of the text. The message of the gospel cuts through this tendency, giving us a specific message of salvation through Jesus alone, the result of God pursuing and redeeming sinners, who cannot find him or reach him on their own.

**Witness of Christ [WC\*]:** We see the Lord's hand in exposing lies and bringing salvation to the lost in the proconsul's conversion. Whenever the Spirit works, Jesus is exalted. Salvation in Jesus is the central work of the Spirit in the field of God's mission.

**Apologetic:** Introduction: Christian or not, we have all developed a bit of cynicism in a world filled with counterfeits. If you're not a Christian here: isn't one of the reasons you would look with suspicion on this the hypocrisy of Christians? I think this story today might help explain some things. Conclusion: Remember the idea of the hypocrisy of Christians—the major reason cited by people who don't believe in Jesus. Here's the thing—the hypocrisy of Christians doesn't expose the Christian gospel as false; it authenticates it as good news. We don't believe that becoming a Christian makes you better than other people, or that only those who measure up to an acceptable moral standard can be Christians. What makes us Christians is a belief that Jesus alone can save us from our sins because of HIS moral perfection, not ours. At the core of Christianity is a humble recognition of our moral failings and a heart of repentance that roots us in Jesus' righteousness, not self-righteousness.

**Form:** Inductive

**Call to Worship:** Romans 8:14-15 (Read or paraphrase)

**Benediction:** Matthew 28:19-20 (Read or paraphrase)

**Outline:**

**I. God's Spirit conducts the work of his mission. (1-3)**

A. The Spirit empowers. (1)

B. The Spirit directs. (2-4a)

**II. God's word confronts the lies of this world. (4-12)**

A. The truth is proclaimed. (4-7)

B. The lie is exposed. (8-12)

**Main Idea:**

Subject: How does God's Spirit authenticate his word as that which Paul preaches?

Complement: Through the miracles of the magician's blindness and the proconsul's salvation.

Exegetical Idea: God's Spirit authenticates his word as that which Paul preaches through miraculously blinding the magician and saving the proconsul.

Theological Idea: God authenticates the teaching of his word by the power of His Spirit.

**Homiletical Idea: God's Spirit proves that His word is true.**

**Introduction:**

READ Acts 13:1-12

**13** 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. <sup>2</sup> 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." <sup>3</sup> Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

<sup>4</sup> So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. <sup>5</sup> When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John to assist them. <sup>6</sup> When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they came upon a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus. <sup>7</sup> He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence, who summoned Barnabas and Saul and

sought to hear the word of God. <sup>8</sup> But Elymas the magician (for that is the meaning of his name) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. <sup>9</sup> But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him <sup>10</sup> and said, “You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord? <sup>11</sup> And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time.” Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand. <sup>12</sup> Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

RE-READ Acts 13:1-3 (with comment)

**13** 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. <sup>2</sup> 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.” <sup>3</sup> Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

### **I. God’s Spirit conducts the work of his mission. (1-3)**

1 Timothy 4:14: “Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you.”

Two “Calling” Mistakes:

- 1) Individualization
- 2) Institutionalization

RE-READ Acts 13:4-12

<sup>4</sup> So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. <sup>5</sup> When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John to assist them. <sup>6</sup> When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they came upon a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus. <sup>7</sup> He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence, who summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. <sup>8</sup> But Elymas the magician (for that is the

meaning of his name) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. <sup>9</sup> But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him <sup>10</sup> and said, “You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord? <sup>11</sup> And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time.” Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand. <sup>12</sup> Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

## **II. God’s word confronts the lies of this world. (4-12)**

<sup>28</sup> The Lord will strike you with madness and blindness and confusion of mind, <sup>29</sup> and you shall grope at noonday, as the blind grope in darkness, and you shall not prosper in your ways. Deut 28:28-29

### **HI: God’s Spirit proves that his word is true.**

1) Our confession is evidence.

1 Corinthians 12:2-3

You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. <sup>3</sup> Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.

2) Our unity is evidence.

Ephesians 2:18-22

For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

### 3) Our lives are evidence

Romans 8:14-17

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs— heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.