

## 'The Church That Changed the World'

### Spirit in the Driver's Seat

#### Acts 13:1-5

#### Intro:

[Image] Q – Who's in the driver's seat of your life? Is it your self? Or the Holy Spirit?

E.g. Funny story in our family when my Dad was in the driver's seat

- Whoever is in the driver's seat will determine your journey & the direction you go

[Need] Q – So let me ask you again, who's in the driver's seat of your life? Is it your self? Or the Holy Spirit?

In the NT, when the Spirit is allowed to sit in the driver's seat He:

(a) Changes People into Christlikeness

(b) Mobilizes People for Mission

- Perhaps the Spirit used to be in the driver's seat but you've slipped into Carnality – pride, anger, jealousy, lust
- Perhaps you would love Him to be in the driver's seat but you are scared of the wholesale changes He'll make
- Perhaps you are stuck in your faith, struggling for power, like your battery's gone flat

[Subject] Today we're going to see a community who let the Spirit sit in the driver's seat...

- He changed them into Christlikeness & He mobilized them for mission
- And we're going to ask 'What does it look like for a community to let the Spirit sit in the driver's seat?'

[Text] That community is the church in Antioch, found in Acts 13:1-5

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#### **I. A Community Soaked in Sacrificial Prayer & Worship [Acts 13:1-2a]**

<sup>1</sup> Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. <sup>2</sup> While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said ...

- Setting = Church in Antioch, 300 miles north of J'em, gospel has spread there, church planted
- Sacrificial Worship = Not just singing songs, word here speaks of sacrificial worship of Levites in LXX
- Sacrificial Prayer & Fasting = Fasting often combined with prayer, desp. for divine revelation & direction
- Setting their Hearts on Full surrender to God & His Will – e.g. Your heart is like a magnet

#### **II. A Community Sensitive to the Voice of God the Holy Spirit [Acts 13:2-3]**

<sup>2</sup> While they were worshipping 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> So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

- Person of Holy Spirit speaks – prophet's voice here in v 1?  
Today He speaks through passages of Scripture, peace, promptings, people, particular set of circumstances ...
- Puts His finger on Paul & Barnabas – set apart for me now – now = urgent call, for me = their mine ... for the work to which I have called them – call here in perfect tense implying issued in past now being called back to
- Process of Discernment – After they fasted and prayed, placed hands on them ... cf. 16:10 – we concluded ...

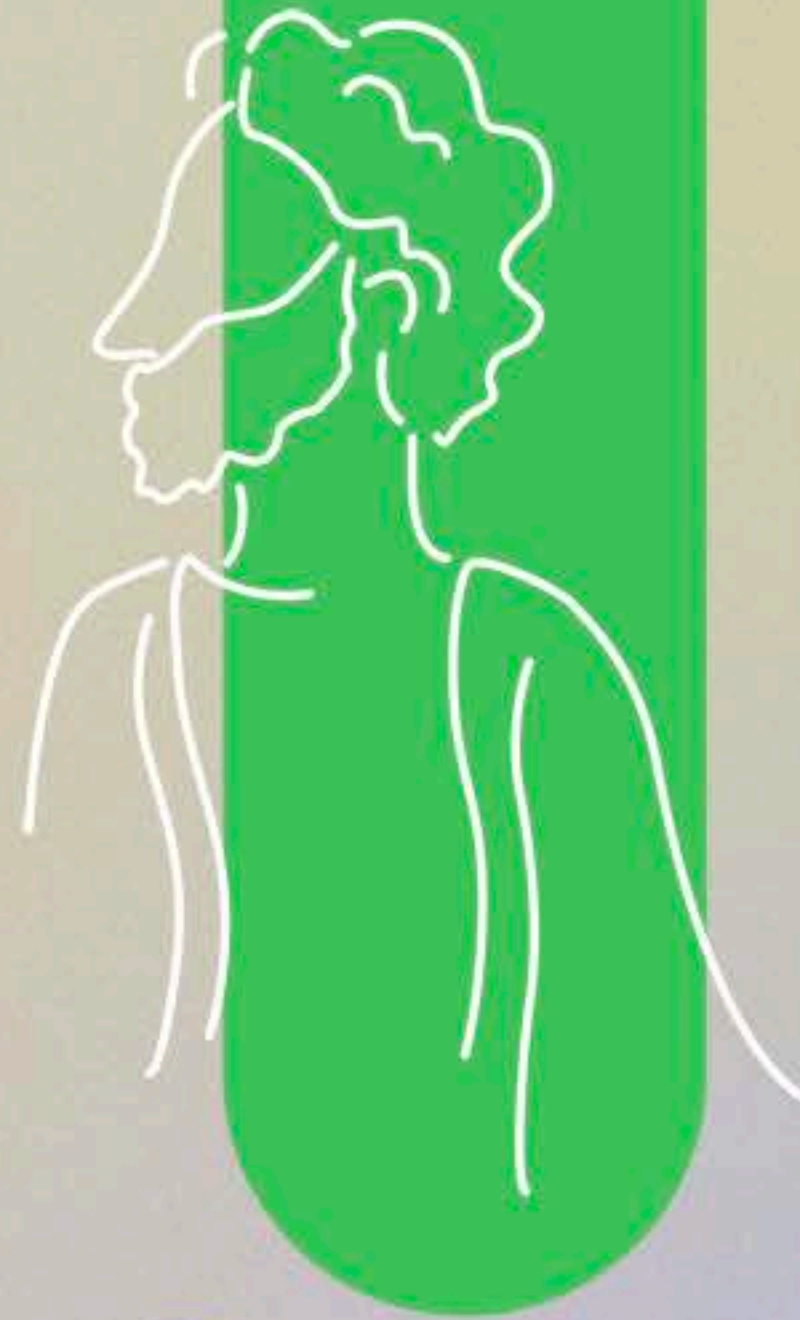
#### **III. A Community Shaped into Christlikeness & Sent out on Mission [Acts 13:4-5; cf. 11:25-26]**

<sup>4</sup> The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. <sup>5</sup> When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper.

- Driven into Christlikeness      11:25-26 – Word, Wonderful Christlikeness – first called Christians
- Driven into Mission            13:5 – Power to proclaim
- Deliberate Steps                Meets where people are at / Moves to Jesus / Makes invitation to Trust

#### **IV. Let the Spirit Sit in the Driver's Seat [HP]**





PART 3

# POWER-FILLED PEOPLE

THE CHURCH  
THAT CHANGED  
THE WORLD



**THE POWER-FILLED LIVES SLIDE**







## **(1) A COMMUNITY SOAKED IN SACRIFICIAL PRAYER & WORSHIP**

**1 Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. 2 While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said ...**

**ACTS 13:1-2A**







## **(2) A COMMUNITY SENSITIVE TO THE VOICE OF GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT**

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**ACTS 13:2-3**



*"Drills down deep into rock-bed practicalities for any community."* — Richard J. Foster

PURSUING  
GOD'S WILL  
TOGETHER

A DISCERNMENT PRACTICE  
FOR LEADERSHIP GROUPS



RUTH HALEY BARTON

*Author of Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership*



### **(3) A COMMUNITY SHAPED INTO CHRISTLIKENESS & SENT OUT ON MISSION**

**4 The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. 5 When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper.**

**ACTS 13:4-5**







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**(a) Meets His Listeners Where They Are At - Steps into Their Story**



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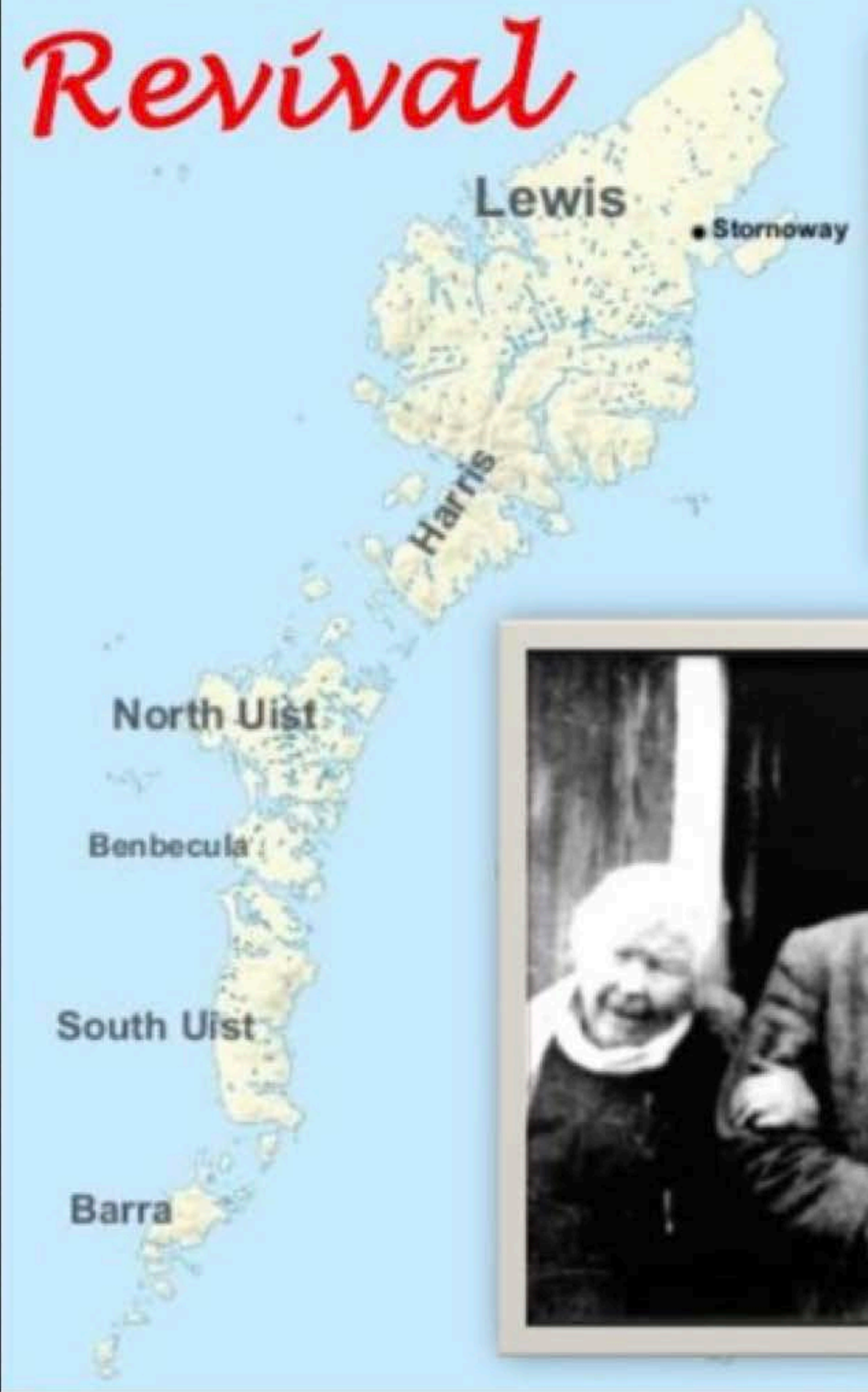
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**(4) LET THE SPIRIT SIT IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT!**



# Revival



7 Dec 1949