

Christians on Campus
Acts Bible Study
Summer 2020

The God-ordained Way to Propagate Christ through Prayer, the Spirit, and the Word

- I. The spread of the gospel of the kingdom to the Gentile world in Acts 13 was initiated by five faithful and seeking members of the Body, who afforded an opportunity, through their ministering and fasting, to the Head of the Body that He, as the Spirit, might set them apart to carry out His great commission to spread His kingdom for the establishment of His church in the Gentile world through the preaching of His gospel—Acts 13:1-4.
- II. In his ministry Paul announced Christ as the firstborn Son of God in resurrection; God's raising up Jesus from the dead was His begetting of Him to be His firstborn Son—v. 33; Rom. 8:29:
 - A. As the only begotten Son, the Lord is the embodiment of the divine life—John 1:4; 3:16; 1 John 5:11-12.
 - B. As the firstborn Son, Christ is the life-dispenser for the propagation of life—1 Pet. 1:3.
 - C. In Acts 13 Paul was preaching Christ as the firstborn Son for propagation; for this reason, he preached the resurrection of the Lord Jesus as His birth in His humanity to be God's firstborn Son—v. 33.

As you read: highlight instances in this chapter where prayer, the Spirit, and the Word are mentioned or implied.

Acts 13:1-52

¹Now there were in Antioch, in the local church, prophets and teachers: Barnabas and Simeon, who was called Niger, and Lucius the Cyrenian, and Manaen, the foster brother of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ²And as they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, Set apart for Me now Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them. ³Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. ⁴They then, having been sent out by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia; and from there they sailed away to Cyprus.

⁵And when they were in Salamis, they announced the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they also had John as their attendant. ⁶And when they had passed through the whole island as far as Paphos, they found a certain man, a magician and Jewish false prophet, whose name was Bar-jesus, ⁷who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man; the latter called Barnabas and Saul to him and sought to hear the word of God. ⁸But Elymas the magician (for so his name is translated) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. ⁹But Saul, who is also Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him ¹⁰and said, O you who are full of all deceit and all unscrupulousness, son of the devil, enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord? ¹¹And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind, not seeing the sun for a time. And instantly a mist and a darkness fell upon him; and he went about and sought some to lead him by the hand. ¹²Then the proconsul, seeing what had happened, believed, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

¹³And putting out to sea from Paphos, Paul and his companions came to Perga of Pamphylia; and John departed from them and returned to Jerusalem. ¹⁴And they passed through from Perga and arrived at Pisidian Antioch. And they went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down. ¹⁵And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the synagogue rulers sent word to them, saying, Men, brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say it. ¹⁶And Paul, rising up and motioning with his hand, said, Men of Israel and

those who fear God, listen. ¹⁷The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and exalted the people during their sojourn in the land of Egypt, and with a high arm He led them out of it. ¹⁸And for a time of about forty years He carried them as a nurse in the wilderness. ¹⁹And when He had overthrown seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land as an inheritance. ²⁰And after these things, for about four hundred and fifty years, He gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. ²¹And afterward they asked for a king; and God gave them Saul, the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. ²²And when He had deposed him, He raised up David for them as king, to whom also He testified and said, I have found David, the son of Jesse, a man according to My heart, who will do all My will. ²³From this man's seed, God, according to promise, brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, ²⁴after John had proclaimed, prior to His public entrance, a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. ²⁵Now as John was completing his course, he said, What do you suppose that I am? I am not the Christ. But behold, One is coming after me, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie. ²⁶Men, brothers, sons of the race of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to us the word of this salvation has been sent forth. ²⁷For those dwelling in Jerusalem and their rulers, being ignorant of this One and of the words of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by judging Him. ²⁸And though they did not find one cause of death in Him, they asked of Pilate that He be done away with. ²⁹And when they had accomplished all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the tree and laid Him in a tomb. ³⁰But God raised Him from the dead. ³¹And for many days He appeared to those who had come up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now His witnesses to the people. ³²And we announce to you the gospel of the promise made to the fathers, ³³that God has fully fulfilled this promise to us their children in raising up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, "You are My Son; this day have I begotten You." ³⁴And as to His having raised Him up from the dead, no longer to return to corruption, He spoke in this way, "I will give you the holy things of David, the faithful things." ³⁵Therefore He also says in another place, "You will not allow Your Holy One to see corruption." ³⁶Now David, having served his own generation by the counsel of God, did indeed fall asleep and was buried with his fathers and saw corruption; ³⁷but He whom God has raised did not see corruption. ³⁸Therefore let it be known to you, men, brothers, that through this One forgiveness of sins is announced to you; ³⁹and from all the things from which you were not able to be justified by the law of Moses, in this One everyone who believes is justified. ⁴⁰Therefore beware that what is spoken in the prophets does not come upon you: ⁴¹"Look, you despisers, and marvel, and vanish away; for I am doing a work in your days, a work which you will by no means believe, though someone tells it to you in detail." ⁴²And as Paul and Barnabas were going out, the people begged that these words would be spoken to them on the next Sabbath. ⁴³And when the synagogue gathering had been dismissed, many of the Jews and the devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who spoke to them and urged them to continue in the grace of God.

⁴⁴And on the following Sabbath almost all the city gathered together to hear the word of God. ⁴⁵But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and contradicted the things being spoken by Paul and blasphemed. ⁴⁶And Paul and Barnabas spoke boldly and said, It was necessary for the word of God to be spoken to you first. Since you thrust it away and do not judge yourselves worthy of eternal life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷For so the Lord has commanded us, "I have set you as a light of the Gentiles, that you would be for salvation unto the uttermost part of the earth." ⁴⁸And the Gentiles, hearing this, rejoiced and glorified the word of the Lord; and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. ⁴⁹And the word of the Lord was carried through the whole region. ⁵⁰But the Jews incited the women of high standing who worshipped God, and the chief men of the city, and raised up a persecution against Paul and Barnabas and cast them out from their borders. ⁵¹But they shook off the dust of their feet against them and came to Iconium. ⁵²And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.

Romans 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers.

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has regenerated us unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Questions:

1. Can you find the three major matters (prayer, the Spirit, and the word) in God's move in Acts 13:1-4? What about in the rest of the chapter? Why are these three matters significant, and how do they apply to our experience in being led by the Lord?
2. Take turns to practice preaching the gospel concerning how Christ is both the only begotten Son of God (John 3:16) and the firstborn Son of God (Rom. 8:29).