

February 28th & March 1st, 2026

The Power of *the* Mission is *the* LORD

Acts 13:6-12

The Spirit of the Lord is active! The Spirit of the Lord, the Path of the Lord, the Hand of the Lord, and the Word of the Lord.

- The Spirit's power magnifies *the Lord* in spreading the Gospel, overcoming opposition, and confirming His message and His messengers.
- Zechariah 4:6 *"Then he said to me, 'This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty."*

The Paths of the Lord are Straight. The Spirit Opens Doors and Provides Invitations

Acts 13:6-7 *"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. He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence, who summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God."*

- ◆ God prepares hearts to receive His Word

John 6:44 *"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day."*

Luke 11:10 *"For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened."*

- Sergius Paulus summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God.
- Paul and Barnabas followed the Spirit's leading to Paphos, where God had already prepared an open door.

➤ Are we attentive to the Lord's invitations in our lives?

The Hand of the Lord Turns Opposition to Victory.

Acts 13:8-11 *"But Elymas (for that is the meaning of his name) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. ⁹But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him ¹⁰and 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? ¹¹And 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."*

- ◆ Opposition is inevitable when spreading the Gospel; Satan sows tares among the wheat (Matthew 13:24-30).
 - Bar-Jesus was an imposter—a false prophet.
 - Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, boldly rebukes Elymas, exposing his deceit and villainy.
 - The Lord's power is displayed through swift judgment in this case, confirming Christ's authority and the truth of His Word.

➤ How do we respond to opposition? Are we relying on the Holy Spirit and the Word for boldness and discernment?

- Our new life helps us identify what is being sought after as we encounter situations: Elymas was seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

Matthew 12:30 *“Whoever is not with Me is against Me, and whoever does not gather with Me scatters.”*

The Word of the Lord Transforms Lives.

Acts 13:12 *“Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.”*

- ◆ The proconsul’s belief was not just based on the miracle but on the teaching of the Lord.
 - The Gospel is the power of God for salvation (Romans 1:16).
 - God’s Word is accompanied by His Spirit to convict hearts and bring salvation.
- Are we sharing the Gospel with confidence, trusting God to work through His Word?

Lessons of the Lord from Paul’s Ministry

Galatians 1:11-12 *“For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man’s gospel. ¹²For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.”*

❖ The Lord is sovereign and all-powerful in our Mission

- ◆ The Lord organizes the workers, gives the spiritual gifts, and aligns the path ahead
- ◆ Paul’s calling was divine, not human, and his ministry as an apostle was confirmed by the Spirit’s power previously, so that he immediately testified to Christ
 - Trust God’s plan and timing in your life and ministry.
 - ☞ **Follow God’s Invitations**

❖ Boldness in the Spirit

- ◆ Paul’s rebuke of Elymas shows the importance of being filled with the Spirit to confront opposition as shown to do so.
- ◆ The Spirit empowers us to speak truth and act with authority beyond our natural selves.
 - Are we seeking to be filled with the Spirit daily?
 - ☞ **Live and Serve “In the Spirit.”**
 - ☞ Align your actions, thoughts, and worship with the Holy Spirit’s guidance.
 - ☞ Pray daily for a fresh filling of the Spirit and seek to live in obedience to His leading.

❖ God’s Confirmation of His Word

- ◆ Miracles and signs accompany the proclamation of the Gospel, but the focus remains on the Word of the Lord. The Spirit’s role is to magnify and reveal Christ; we yield to the Spirit.
- ◆ God uses His power through the Holy Spirit to validate His message and draw people to Himself.
 - Do we trust God to confirm His Word as we share the Gospel?
 - ☞ **Trust God’s Power and Plan**

❖ God’s Kingdom Expands Despite Opposition, even through it, as a tool for clarity

- ◆ Opposition often reveals the truth and strengthens the faith of believers.
- ◆ God uses challenges to grow His church and spread the Gospel to new territories.
 - Are we willing to face opposition for the sake of the Gospel? Do we see challenges as *opportunities* for growth?
 - ☞ **Face Opposition with Faith**
 - ☞ **Proclaim the Gospel Boldly:** God’s Word is powerful and transformative.

"Apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)

Endnotes:

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