

February 14th & 15th, 2026

From Worship to Mission

How the Holy Spirit Shapes, Leads, and Sends His Church

Acts 13:1-3

Acts 13:1a, “Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers...”

A Spirit-Empowered Church

- ❖ The church is formed of believers and converts who have been called to follow Jesus and to discipleship.
- ♦ Antioch was a large congregation where believers grew under the teaching and discipleship of Barnabas and Saul.

 *Acts 11:20-26*

- ↳ Antioch was formed by diverse believers who became the first mission-sending center.
- ↳ Antioch was the first place where believers were called Christians.
- ↳ Antioch is the picture of a healthy church with a distinct Christian identity, strong biblical leadership, and the heart to bring others to Christ.
- ↳ Antioch was a supernatural community formed directly by God through the Holy Spirit.

Acts 13:1 “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.

A Spirit-Empowered Team

- ❖ The church was led by a diverse team that was appointed directly by God and endorsed by the Apostles in Jerusalem.
- ♦ The formation of this team shows that, regardless of their background, they are united in Christ with one purpose: Discipleship.

Romans 12:4-8 “For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.”

Ephesians 4:4-7 “There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift.”

- ♦ This group is distinguished as prophets and teachers.

Acts 11:27-28 “Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius).”

Acts 11:26, “When [Barnabas] found [Saul] he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.”

- ♦ The purpose of servant leadership in the church is to see people conformed to Christ through truth.

Ephesians 4:8,11-13 “Therefore it says, ‘When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men.’ ... ¹¹And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,’ ”

- ♦ Their social background and life experience gave them the ability to train different people in varied ways to conform to Christ.

Ephesians 4:14-16 “so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”

Acts 13:2-3 “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.’ ³Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.”

A Spirit-Empowered Calling

- ❖ As the leaders of the church worshiped and fasted, the Holy Spirit spoke to them.

- ♦ A posture of worship and fasting was crucial in launching missions.

Luke 6:12-13 “In these days He went out to the mountain to pray, and all night He continued in prayer to God. ¹³And when day came, He called His disciples and chose from them twelve, whom He named apostles:”

Acts 1:14 “All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and His brothers.”

- ♦ The Holy Spirit had a specific direction for the leaders of this church for the next phase of ministry.

Acts 13:2-3 “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.’ ³Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.”

- ♦ The Holy Spirit is God Himself.

2 Corinthians 3:16-17 “But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”

- ♦ The Holy Spirit forms, empowers, and leads the Church to carry out God’s kingdom mission.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 11 “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ... ¹¹All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as He wills.”

Endnotes:

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