

## ***“Will Power”***

Are You Willing to be made Willing?  
*Acts 12:24-13:5*

***God calls Us to be willing to:***

### **I. Finance** – “returned from Jerusalem” (verses 24-25)

Why were they returning? Because they went! Yes, but why?

- To bring relief to the saints in Judea – Financial help.

***Our giving should be connected to Our:***

#### **A. Awareness** – “their ministry”

### **They sent help because they knew of the need: Look at Acts 11:28 -29**

<sup>28</sup>And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar. <sup>29</sup>Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea:

Barnabus and Saul return from where? Bringing relief and gifts to the church in Jerusalem. (Acts 11:29) / Acts 2:44-45

***Sometimes we use our awareness to justify not giving – We must be careful :***

- Don’t be as quick to judge as you are to give
- Their mistakes do not negate your call

### **B. Ability** - “fulfilled” (Acts 11:29)

How do we know if we are able?

We have the ability if we can give without stealing from our responsibility to:

1. Pay our bills – Romans 3:8
2. Take care of your own I Tim 5:8
3. Take care of your offering I Cor 16:1
4. Take care of your motive Acts 5

^^ Hint give yourself first IICor 8:5

### **II. Fellowship** – “in the church” (verses 1-3)

*Our fellowship hinges on Our understanding of :*

#### **A. Calling** – “Certain prophets and teachers”

- Notice all the people named and their function- not a one man band.
  - **Prophets** – forthtelling as well as foretelling
  - **Teachers** – gifted people God has placed in the church for the task of helping the people see the Word of God as one story – His story – Old and New Testaments of God’s Grace
  - **Barnabus** –
    - ^ Acts 4:36 – sold land and we are told his nickname “son of consolation”
    - ^ Acts 9:26 – Took Saul in
    - ^ Acts 11:22 – Chosen by leadership to perform sensitive task

- **Simeon** – “Niger” = Latin for black. perhaps the same man as in Luke 23:26 and Matthew 27:32 – that carried Jesus’ cross. Oh, What a story teller he must have been.
- **Lucius** – “Luke” common name – no one in particular but in that church still treated as valuable
- **Manaen** - ...which was brought up with” means an intimate friend or foster brother to Herod the Tetrarch or Antipas – He had ruled during Jesus Ministry, Jesus called him “that fox” in Luke 13:32, and had John the Baptist beheaded. He was the Son of Herod the Great that had babies killed when Jesus was born.
- **Saul** – born again in Acts 9 after being a part of the Stoning of Steven in Acts 7. Later, v. 9, in this chapter name is changed to Paul. Saul was his Jewish name – He takes his Gentile name “Paul” as he takes on his calling.

➤ Different gifts and backgrounds that God wants to use for His Glory and for multiplied effectiveness!

## B. Commitment– “as they ministered”

no fanfare, no surprise, no excuses—they were ministering (plural)

- A moving object is easier to steer than one standing still
- Separate – “death” dying to self and comfort
- Specific – Barnabus and Saul – not just anybody to fill the slot but those I have called

## C. Communion - “laid hands,...sent them”

- Laid Hands on them
  - Blessing
  - Identification/Partnership
  - Commitment
- Prayer and Fasting
  - realizing the sober ontaking
  - seeking guidance, provision, blessing

## III. Follow – “being sent” (verses 4-5)

*Our steps must be ordered by God’s:*

### A. Spirit – “by the Holy Ghost”

- He moves us
- He guides us
- He gives us words and boldness
- He prepares hearts to receive
- \*\* Remember the first person of evangelism is the Holy Spirit

### B. Sequencing – “and from thence”

In His Time not always spelled out in advance but we must remain pliable v. 4

### C. Strategy – “preached the word in the synagogues”

No Place special but wait yes it is .

\*\* In the center of God’s Will

- Antioch – 16 miles inland
- Seleucia – Seaport
- Cyprus – 60 miles by sea, Island of Barnabus’s birth
- Salamis east coast of Cyprus

\*\* They were taking the Word to the World

++ John Mark – Barnabus’s cousin

when they had fasted and prayed, and laid *their* hands on them, they sent *them* away.

<sup>4</sup>So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus. <sup>5</sup>And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to *their* minister.

<sup>24</sup>But the word of God grew and multiplied.

<sup>25</sup>And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem, when they had fulfilled *their* ministry, and took with them John, whose surname was Mark.

## Chapter 13

<sup>1</sup>Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. <sup>2</sup>As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. <sup>3</sup>And