

Holy Spirit Sets Apart Paul & Barnabas for Missions (Acts 12:25: 13:3)

- Church came through intense persecution- Angel delivers Peter (ch. 12)
- Herod angered, continues to harass the church, God removes him (v.22)
- In contrast we read vs 23 “But the Word of God grew & multiplied.”
- In both persecution & growth of the church – God is in control of it all

I. The Holy Spirit sets His Servants Apart for Service (12:25,13:2)

- The point of this passage is that the Holy Spirit is building the church
- Up to this point the focus of the church had been mostly with the Jews
- Holy Spirit led Peter to Cornelius’ household – Peter was criticized
- Accounts of Gentiles believing increased, Barnabas goes to investigate
- The work is encouraging – Barnabas gets Saul to help him in Antioch
- Holy Spirit had been preparing these men for missions to the Gentiles
- Focus now changes from Jerusalem to Antioch, from Peter to Paul

“separate to Me Barnabas & Saul for the work ... I have called them.”

- The call was from God and not the design or the desire of man.

II. Means of Holy Spirit to Set Paul & Barnabas Apart (12:1-3)

- Luke highlights the diversity of leadership in the church in Antioch (1)
- Holy Spirit leads church to set aside Paul & Barnabas during worship
 - 1) Spirit led the congregation to do this: “they” speaks of the congregation
 - 2) Not clear how they knew Holy Spirit’s will, but they fasted & prayed
 - 3) Holy Spirit commissioned the missionaries but He also used the church