

## Great Stories of the Bible— 07/31/22

### Paul's Calling and Mission

**TEXT - Acts 13:1-4** *Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon*

**INTRO** – There were at least 2 elements of Paul's training.

1. His training at the feet of Gamaliel **Acts 22:3** according to the strict manner of the law of the Jews.
2. The revelation of the Gospel directly from Jesus Christ **Gal 1:12**, most probably in Arabia.

His training with Gamaliel would have been concluded by the time he was twenty and would have given Paul a good understanding of Old Testament.

**Philippians 3:5-6** *Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.*

1. He states that he was "circumcised on the eighth day."
2. He calls himself "of the people of Israel."
3. He says he is "of the tribe of Benjamin."
4. He tells his readers that he is "a Hebrew of Hebrews."
5. He calls himself "a Pharisee."
6. When he speaks of his zeal, he talks of "persecuting the church."
7. Lastly, he says that with respect to the law, he was "faultless"—and note that he doesn't describe himself as "sinless."

His training in Christianity was directly from Jesus. Paul must have spent at least 6 or 7 years in Arabia and Damascus prior to his missionary ministry.

**God was preparing Paul's heart for his primary purpose.**

### I. Paul's Training

**Christianity is more than gaining knowledge.**

- A. Paul built upon his Old Testament teaching N. T. truth**
- B. He had to learn how to walk in the Spirit**
- C. He had to mature so he could teach others**

**2 Timothy 2:2** *And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*

**1 Corinthians 14:19** . . . *I might teach others also . . .*

- D. He needed to fully understand New Testament teaching**

### II. Paul's Calling

**God is ready to assume full responsibility for the life wholly yielded to Him.**  
**Andrew Murray.**

**A. His calling was from God**

**B. The command came while they were busy ministering and fasting - As they ministered to the Lord**

**C. They obeyed the Holy Ghost's instruction**

**The decision was made with fasting and prayer**

**D. They were commissioned by the leaders**

**Acts 13:3** *And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.*

**This is a pattern of God's calling to a special ministry.**

**"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose. Jim Elliot**

### III. Paul's Ministry

**A. He and Barnabas were sent by the Holy Ghost**

**Acts 9:15** *But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way for he is a chosen vessel unto me to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel*

**Romans 12:1-2** *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

**B. Paul's sufferings**

**2 Corinthians 11:22-28** *Are they Hebrews? so am I. Are they Israelites? so am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? so am I. Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.*

**C. Paul's successes**

**1. Peter says of Paul**

**2 Peter 3:15-16** *And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they*

*that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.*

**2. Paul established churches**

**3. Paul opened the gospel to the gentiles**

**4. Paul penned letters of encouragement and correction**

**5. Paul summarized his life with four statements**

**2 Timothy 4:6-7** *For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:*

#### **IV. Paul's Rewards**

**2 Timothy 4:8** *Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

**Paul left behind a legacy**

**1 Corinthians 11:1** *Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.*

**CONCL – Are we filled with the Holy Spirit and following the call of God for our lives. It is easy to be influenced by the things of this world.**