SPIRIT FILLED CHURCH AND OPPOSITION — ACTS 13:1-13

1 SPIRITUAL MEN *"there were certain prophets and teachers"* v.1



- Their leaders were Spirit controlled. That might sound obvious, but is it?
- The men in this church were not preoccupied with programs or superficial activities like programs.
- They ministered to the Lord and they fasted. They were involved in two things: teaching the Word and prayer (**Ac.6:4**).
- The leadership in Antioch was made up of 2 Jews (Barnabas and Saul), and 3 Gentiles (Simeon is black; Lucius is common or poor; and Manaen is wealthy). The Spirit of God designed this from the very start.

2 SPIRITUAL MINISTRY *"As they ministered to the Lord and fasted"* v.2

- No church will ever reach the people sitting in its pews unless it's a church guided by spiritual men who are preoccupied in a spiritual ministry, not inventing things, but teaching the Word of God and spending time in prayer and fasting over the people.
- As Christians we are believer-priests (**1Pe.2:5**). Everything we do in our life is an offering to Jesus Christ (**Ro.12:1-2**). Every deed that you do in your life is an offering you take into the Holy of Holies.
- The corrupt priests brought the lame and sick as offerings instead of the best (**Ml.1:13**). God says to bring Me the best you have or don't bring Me anything.

3 SPIRITUAL MISSION *"the Holy Spirit said, Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul"* v.2-8



- Spiritual MEN with a spiritual MINISTRY will eventually have spiritual MISSION.
- Notice the "Holy Spirit said" showing their sensitivity to the Spirit's leading.
- It was no intrusion when the Spirit of God spoke. This was right in the flow of their very existence.
- Anybody called into spiritual ministry is called unto the Holy Spirit. Your ministry is to Him, not to an organization, not to the church, but to Him.
- People often say, "I do not know God's will for my life." You just keep doing what you know is right and as you minister God will move you. A call of God is not some super title for life. It is an assignment to use our gifts somewhere.
- Satan knows that if you control the right people, you ultimately control everything. As the prince of this world he knows to control the rulers.
- Whenever the gospel moved into a territory, there's immediate demonic activity to oppose (1) Simon in Samaria, **Ac.8:9-11**; (2) Bar-Jesus in Cyprus, **Ac.13:6-10**; (3) Slave girl in Macedonia, **Ac.16:16**.

4 SPIRITUAL MASTERY *"Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him"* v.9-13



- Spiritual MEN with a spiritual MINISTRY called to a spiritual MISSION, in spite of Satanic resistance will have spiritual MASTERY.
- Saul was not afraid of that guy even though he had a pipeline to hell.
- Notice you've got to be filled with the Spirit. If you do it in your own flesh and you're going to be in real trouble.
- Satan lost the battle and now much of the island of Cyprus is going to come under the control of the Holy Spirit.