

Acts 13:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The Holy Spirit's directive to 'Separate me Barnabas and Saul' demonstrates the Spirit's personal agency in missionary calling and deployment. The context of worship and fasting shows that strategic ministry guidance comes through devoted seeking. The specific selection of these two from multiple prophets and teachers reveals divine sovereignty in leadership appointments.

Historical Context

This commissioning at Antioch (AD 47-48) launched Christianity's first planned missionary journey. The multiethnic leadership team (including Simon called Niger and Lucius of Cyrene) reflected Antioch's cosmopolitan character and the gospel's boundary-crossing nature.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the Holy Spirit guide churches in missionary calling and sending today?
2. What role do corporate worship and fasting play in discerning God's strategic direction?

Interlinear Text

λειτουργούντων	δὲ	αὐτούς	τῷ	κυρίῳ	καὶ	νηστευόντων			
they ministered	As	them	G3588	to the Lord	and	fasted			
G3008	G1161	G846		G2962	G2532	G3522			
εἶπεν	τὸ	πνεῦμα	τὸ	ἅγιον	Ἀφορίσατε	δή	μοι	τὸν	τε
said	G3588	Ghost	G3588	the Holy	Separate	G1211	me	G3588	G5037
G2036		G4151		G40	G873		G3427		
Βαρναβᾶν	καὶ	τὸν	Σαῦλον	εἰς	τὸ	ἔργον	ὃ		
Barnabas	and	G3588	Saul	for	G3588	the work	whereunto		
G921	G2532		G4569	G1519		G2041	G3739		
προσκέκλημαι	αὐτούς								
I have called	them								
G4341	G846								

Additional Cross-References

Galatians 1:15 (Parallel theme): But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,

Acts 9:15 (References Lord): 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 1:1 (Parallel theme): Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

1 Corinthians 12:11 (Spirit): But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

2 Timothy 1:11 (Parallel theme): Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

Acts 22:21 (Parallel theme): And he said unto me, Depart: for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles.

Acts 14:26 (Parallel theme): And thence sailed to Antioch, from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled.

Daniel 9:3 (References Lord): And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:

Colossians 4:17 (References Lord): And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.

1 Timothy 2:7 (Parallel theme): Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.