

Acts 13:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

The laying on of hands following prayer and fasting represents formal commissioning, not impartation of new gifting—Barnabas and Saul already possessed the Spirit. This public act expressed church partnership in their mission and accountability. The sequence (Spirit's call, church's confirmation, public sending) establishes pattern for missionary deployment.

Historical Context

Antioch's church became the missionary-sending hub for Paul's three journeys. This commissioning service formalized what the Spirit initiated, demonstrating that personal calling requires communal confirmation and support.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How should churches today balance individual calling with corporate confirmation and sending?
2. What responsibilities do sending churches bear toward their missionaries?

Interlinear Text

τότε	νηστεύσαντες	καὶ	προσευξάμενοι	καὶ	ἐπιθέντες
And	when they had fasted	and	prayed	and	laid
G5119	G3522	G2532	G4336	G2532	G2007
τὰς	χεῖρας	αὐτοῖς	ἀπέλυσαν		
G3588	their hands	them	they sent them away		
	G5495	G846	G630		

Additional Cross-References

Acts 6:6 (Prayer): Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.

Acts 13:2 (Parallel theme): 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.

1 Timothy 4:14 (Parallel theme): Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

2 Timothy 2:2 (Parallel theme): 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.

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.

Acts 14:23 (Prayer): And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

Numbers 27:23 (Parallel theme): And he laid his hands upon him, and gave him a charge, as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses.

3 John 1:8 (Parallel theme): We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.

Acts 15:40 (Parallel theme): And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God.

Romans 10:15 (Parallel theme): And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

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