

Acts 14:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Paul and Barnabas's 'ordaining of elders in every church' established local leadership before departing. The combination of prayer and fasting with this appointment shows the serious spiritual nature of leadership selection. The phrase 'commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed' indicates both the leaders' and churches' ultimate dependence on Christ rather than apostolic presence.

Historical Context

This pattern of establishing local leadership in newly founded churches prevented cult of personality around founding missionaries. The 'elders' (Greek 'presbyterous') provided ongoing pastoral care and governance after apostles departed.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do you develop local leadership rather than creating dependency on outside authorities?
2. What does prayer and fasting in leadership selection teach about spiritual discernment in important decisions?

Interlinear Text

χειροτονήσαντες	δὲ	αὐτοὺς	πρεσβυτέρους	κατ'	
when they had ordained	And	them	elders	in every	
G5500	G1161	G846	G4245	G2596	
ἐκκλησίαν	προσευξάμενοι	μετὰ	νηστειῶν	παρέθεντο	
church	and had prayed	with	fasting	they commended	
G1577	G4336	G3326	G3521	G3908	
αὐτοὺς	τῷ	κυρίῳ	εἰς	ὃν	πεπιστεύκεισαν
them	G3588	to the Lord	on	whom	they believed
G846		G2962	G1519	G3739	G4100

Additional Cross-References

Titus 1:5 (Parallel theme): For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

Acts 11:30 (Parallel theme): Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

Acts 20:32 (Parallel theme): And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

James 5:14 (Prayer): Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

Acts 20:17 (Parallel theme): And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.

2 Timothy 2:2 (Faith): 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 15:4 (Parallel theme): And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them.

Acts 15:6 (Parallel theme): And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter.

1 Timothy 5:22 (Parallel theme): Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

1 Timothy 5:1 (Parallel theme): Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren;