

# 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

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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

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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

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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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

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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 ὅν πεπιστεύκεισαν

them to the Lord on whom

G3588

G2962

G1519

G3739

they believed

G4100

## Additional Cross-References

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**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;