

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S DIRECTIONS

Acts 13:1-10

Introduction: I recently surveyed our staff for possible sources how they understand God's direction. The top five avenues for understanding God's Will were: God's Word, godly counsel, prayer, Holy Spirit and spouse. Two other additional indicators were circumstances and the peace of God. The important principle to remember, here, is that there is not just one way to understand and discover God's directions.

Acts 13:1-3 ¹ Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was there, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ² While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³ Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

The 13th chapter of Acts is a critical chapter in the growth of the church. Antioch was a marvelous, Christ-honoring, God-exalting, Spirit-filled, and growing church... ready to explode on the world.

I. Three Key Ingredients for Understanding God's Directions

A. S _____ L _____

B. S _____ M _____

C. S _____ M _____

II. God's Sovereign Choice in God's Directions

A. God's Directions are _____

B. God's Directions are _____

III. Our Response to God's Directions

- A. The Entire Church _____ and _____
Themselves with God's Directions for Them
- B. Paul and Barnabas's Response to God's Directions
 - 1. I _____ obeyed God
 - 2. Sought and received the _____ from their church family
 - 3. The people gave Paul and Barnabas their blessing, but the Holy Spirit gave them His _____

IV. Obedience to God's Direction Produces Wonderful Results

- A. Become _____ with God, and Partner with God as Their Leader
- B. E _____ Exciting Ministry Opportunities
- C. S _____ Results

Acts 13:6-10 ⁶ When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they found a magician, a Jewish false prophet whose name was Bar-Jesus, ⁷ who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence. This man summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. ⁸ But Elymas the magician (for so his name is translated) was opposing them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. ⁹ But Saul, who was also known as Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze on him ¹⁰ and said, "You who are full of all deceit and fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord?"

V. Five Principles to Help You Seek, Understand, and Follow God's Directions

- A. There is no " _____ " for the Believer
- B. R _____ is Not Always the Same as Following God's Directions
- C. Get _____, _____, and _____ from More Mature Believers
- D. F _____ and _____ are Needed in Large Doses
- E. If You Have Said No or Failed Before, It Is Never _____

Conclusion and Challenge: