



WHEN IT'S TIME TO BE FIRM IN THE FAITH

ACTS: Church 101

Acts 13:4-13

Sunday, February 13, 2022

THE MAJOR SHIFT: A Review

Acts 13:1 (NASB) *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.*

Acts 13:4 (NASB) *So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus.*

1 Corinthians 12:18 (NASB) *But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.*

Acts 13:5 (NASB) *When they reached Salamis, they began to proclaim the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews; and they also had John as their helper.*

Acts 13:6 (NASB) *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.*

BEING FIRM IN OUR FAITH

1. We can be firm in the faith when we are OPPOSED in sharing our faith.

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV) *But in your hearts revere [set apart] Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.*

Acts 13:9 (NASB) *But Saul, who was also known as Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze on him...*

2. We can be firm in the faith when we are FILLED with the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18 (NASB) *And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit...*

How do we know if we are “filled” or “controlled by the Holy Spirit?

Ephesians 5:19 (NASB) ... *speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;*²⁰ *always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;*²¹ *and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.*

Acts 13:10 (NASB) ... *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?"*

3. We can be firm in the faith when we can **ACCURATELY** assess our opposition.

- One is **MOTIVATED** by deceit and fraud. "*You who are full of all deceit and fraud...*"
- One's **CHARACTER** is that of a liar. "*... you son of the devil ...*"
- One's **PURPOSE** is to oppose what God is doing. "*... you enemy of all righteousness...*"
- One's **GOAL** is to warp the direction of God. "*...will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord?"*"

Matthew 7:1 (NIV) "*Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ² For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*"

Acts 13:11 (NASB) "*Now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and not see the sun for a time.*" *And immediately a mist and a darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking those who would lead him by the hand.*

4. We can be firm in the faith when we can leave the **RESULTS** to God.

Romans 12:19 (NIV) *Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.*

Acts 13:12 (NASB) *Then the proconsul believed when he saw what had happened, being amazed at the teaching of the Lord.*

5. We can be firm in the faith when the **OUTCOME** has to do with the eternal destiny of individuals.

Jude 1:3 (NIV) *Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. ⁴ For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.*

Notice the two accusations that caused this firm reply:

- They change grace into a **LICENSE** for immorality. .

Romans 6:1 (NASB) *What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? ² May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?*

Romans 6:15 (NASB) *What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! ¹⁶ Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?*

- They **DENY** the person of Jesus Christ. They deny either the deity of Jesus or the humanity of Jesus.

1 John 2:22 (NIV) *Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist - he denies the Father and the Son. ²³ No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.*

Luke 6:43 (NASB) *"For there is no good tree which produces bad fruit, nor, on the other hand, a bad tree which produces good fruit. ⁴⁴ For each tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they pick grapes from a briar bush. ⁴⁵ The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart."*

Galatians 5:22 (NASB) *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

THE LORD'S SUPPER: An Area of Godly Firmness

1 Corinthians 11:17 (NASB) *But in giving this instruction, I do not praise you, because you come together not for the better but for the worse. ¹⁸ For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part I believe it. ¹⁹ For there must also be factions among you, so that those who are approved may become evident among you.*

11:20 *Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper, ²¹ for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk. ²² What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I will not praise you.*

11:23 *For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.*

11:27 *Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. ²⁸ But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. ³⁰ For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.*

As we gather as a church body, as a family, let us take some time to examine ourselves in two areas.

1. Am I in a right relationship with God the Father? Have I been adopted into God's family because I have trusted what Jesus has done for me on the cross? In addition, is there any unconfessed sin in my life that I've been ignoring?
2. Am I in a right relationship with other brothers and sisters in this church? Is there anyone for whom I don't have a great delight and enjoyment? Are there those people who I "have something against" or know they "have something against me?"