

Sermon Notes

As many were appointed to eternal life believed (Acts 13)

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Belief

- *Used in the NT of the conviction and trust to which a man is impelled by a certain inner and higher prerogative and law of soul;*
- *To trust in Jesus or God as able to aid either in obtaining or in doing something: saving faith*

Our unbelief

*So they brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw him, it immediately threw the boy into convulsions. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. "How long has this been happening to him?" Jesus asked his father. "From childhood," he said. "And many times it has thrown him into fire or water to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." Jesus said to him, " 'If you can'? **Everything is possible for the one who believes.**" **Immediately the father of the boy cried out, "I do believe; help my unbelief!"** (Mar 9:20-24 CSB)*

*Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Don't be faithless, but believe." Thomas responded to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. **Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.**" (Jhn 20:27-29 CSB)*

The Holy Spirit speaks and sends

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen, a close friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

Then after they had fasted, prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them off. So being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. (Act 13:1-4 CSB)

Opposition to the word

He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man summoned Barnabas and Saul and wanted to hear the word of God.

But Elymas the sorcerer (that is the meaning of his name) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul away from the faith. But Saul -- also called Paul -- filled with the Holy Spirit, stared straight at Elymas and said... (Act 13:7-9 CSB)

Then he believed

Then, when he saw what happened, the proconsul believed, because he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord. (Act 13:12 CSB)

Paul's teaching

Moses -> David -> Resurrected Jesus -> Forgiveness -> Freedom

Opposition to the word

"So beware that what is said in the prophets does not happen to you: "Look, you scoffers, marvel and vanish away, because I am doing a work in your days, a work that you will never believe, even if someone were to explain it to you." (Act 13:40-41 CSB)

*But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what Paul was saying, insulting him. Paul and Barnabas boldly replied, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first. Since you reject it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, we are turning to the Gentiles. "For this is what the Lord has commanded us: I have made you a light for the Gentiles to bring salvation to the end of the earth." **When the Gentiles heard this, they rejoiced and honored the word of the Lord, and all who had been appointed to eternal life believed.** (Act 13:45-48 CSB)*

Questions:

- ***Are you listening to the Holy Spirit? Is He trying to send you to someone or some where?***
- ***Would you believe Him if you heard Him? Would you believe someone about Him if they told you?***
- ***How can you overcome opposition to the word in the world around you? How have you shaken the dust off your feet and moved on?***
- ***Have you experienced forgiveness and freedom in Christ?***
