

Acts 13–16: A Masterclass in Spirit-Led Missions



Key Verse: “As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’” — Acts 13:2 (NKJV)



The Antioch Sending Cycle: Missions Initiated by the Spirit



Worship & Fasting



The Spirit Speaks

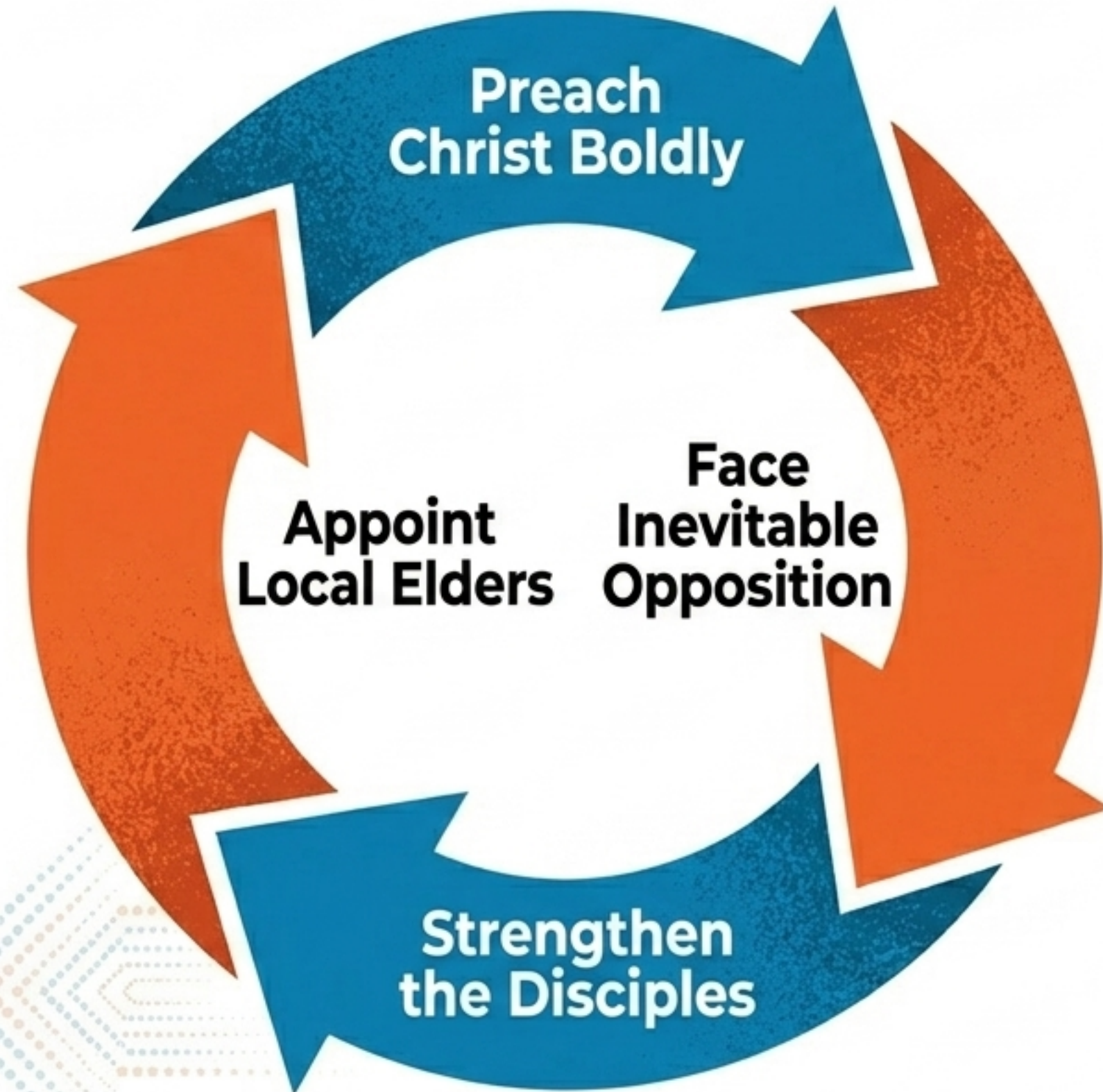


The Church Sends

Missionaries are **not volunteers. They are **called**.**

- **Born in Worship:** The Antioch church sought God's presence before seeking a strategy.
- **Initiated by the Spirit:** The Holy Spirit called specific people for a specific task.
- **Sent by the Local Church:** The congregation took responsibility, laid hands on them, and sent them out.

The Apostolic Church-Planting Loop



“We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”
(Acts 14:22, NKJV)

- **Expect Opposition:** Cultural misunderstanding (like being called gods at Lystra) and persecution (stoning) are the norm.
- **Develop Indigenous Leaders:** Church planting is incomplete without local elders (Acts 14:23).

The Jerusalem Council Crisis: The Threat to Global Missions



THE
GOSPEL

CULTURAL
LAW

The Core Question: Must a Gentile become culturally Jewish to be saved?

- **The Debate:** Believers argued that circumcision and the Law of Moses were requirements for salvation (Acts 15:1).
- **The Threat:** If a new convert must adopt the missionary's foreign culture to be saved, the Great Commission is destroyed.

The Resolution: Distinguishing the Gospel from Cultural Forms

THE GOSPEL (Non-Negotiable)

- Saved by Grace through Faith
- The Power of Jesus Christ
- Repentance from Sin

CULTURAL FORMS (Flexible)

- Dress, Language, and Customs
- Styles of Worship and Music
- Leadership Structures

“We believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they.” (Acts 15:11, NKJV)

The Principle: Converts do not need to adopt the missionary’s culture to be genuine Christians.

The Macedonian Call: Prophetic Redirection in Strategy

Strategic planning must remain submitted to the Holy Spirit's immediate voice.



**Blocked by
the Spirit**



- **The Blocked Door:** The Holy Spirit forbade Paul to preach in Asia and Bithynia (Acts 16:6-7).

- **The Prophetic Vision:** A man pleading, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us' (Acts 16:9).

- **The Continental Shift:** Immediate obedience allowed the gospel to cross into Europe for the first time.

Unexpected Harvests in Philippi: The Marketplace and the Prison

THE RIVERBANK



Lydia, the Businesswoman.
The first European convert. A church
meets in her home (Acts 16:14-15).

THE PRISON



The Roman Jailer. Saved after a
supernatural earthquake. An entire
household baptized (Acts 16:30-33).

**Church planting doesn't always begin with a Sunday service.
God uses the marketplace, and God uses our suffering.**

Pentecostal Application: Worship as a Weapon of Breakthrough



Midnight in the Prison (Acts 16:25)

- Beaten and chained, Paul and Silas sang hymns to God.
- Worship in the face of suffering shifts the atmosphere and releases supernatural power.

The Principle: The Holy Spirit is not confined by human opposition. He is most powerfully present in the eye of the storm.

Discussing the Apostolic Blueprint With Your Leadership Team

1 What can your church learn from Acts 13:1-3 about the proper process for sending missionaries?

2 How does the Jerusalem Council's decision affect the way you approach people of different cultures?

3 What does the Macedonian vision teach us about the role of prophetic guidance in our strategy?

4 How did Paul and Silas turn their imprisonment into an opportunity, and how does this apply to you?

Seeking a Specific Macedonian Call for Your Church



Holy Spirit, give us a specific Macedonian call.

Reveal to us a vision, a burden, or a clear impression for a particular people or place where the gospel is urgently needed.

Give us the courage to respond immediately, just as Paul did.

Action Step: Upgrading Your Local Church's Sending Process



Examine how your church currently makes missionary decisions.

- **Is your process genuinely Spirit-led?**
- **Does it involve the whole congregation in prayer and fasting?**
- **YOUR TASK: Write a proposal for how your church could improve its missionary sending process, drawing directly from the Antioch model in Acts 13:1-3.**