

The elders of the church in Antioch were fasting and worshiping the Lord together when they heard from the Holy Spirit. How essential this example is to the church! We are told throughout the psalms to wait on the Lord (Psalm 62:1; 27:14; 25:4-5; 130:5-6). Throughout Jesus' earthly ministry the disciples waited on every word that came from their Master. Then the Lord promised He would be with them even after His departure (John 14:18). He sent the Holy Spirit to live in us. Do we think that now we can function without His direction? Do we really think we can interpret Scripture without His inspiration? Jesus promised the Spirit would be our teacher (John 14:26). Then how can we be taught if we don't listen? In our busy world, our prideful self-reliance has us running from one thing to the next believing we can do it on our own. The Teacher's voice is of no help to us if we don't pause long enough to listen.

The church in Antioch listened and the Holy Spirit instructed them to set apart Saul and Barnabas to take the gospel to the world. They took John Mark with them and traveled to Cyprus. There is no record of any fruit from their ministry until they were called to an audience with the island's proconsul, Sergius Paulus. God's judgment on Elymas the sorcerer proved to Sergius Paulus that the gospel was true. In this we saw that there are times when resistance to the gospel actually helps it be received (Acts 13:12).

¹⁴ but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. ¹⁵ After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent a message to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, say it." Acts 13:14-15 This is one of several cities named Antioch. This Antioch was almost due north of where they had landed and much higher in elevation. They attended the local synagogue and listened to the reading of the Word. Every Sabbath there would be a reading from the Law and from the Prophets, working through both in one year's time. After the reading, they were invited to speak.

Watch for God's invitations. We don't need to make things happen. God goes before us and makes a way. We just need to be in tune with the Spirit to know how He wants us to respond to the opportunities He sets before us.

¹⁶ So Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said: "Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen." Acts 13:16 There are two different groups in the synagogue, the Jews and Gentiles who are attracted to the God of Israel, referred to here as "you who fear God." He began by telling them to listen. This is the first word in the Jews' daily prayer, "shema!" (Deuteronomy 6:4-9). Hear, O Israel... The prayer from Scripture reminds them to listen because their failure to listen was the source of all their past troubles as a nation (Psalm 106:13). What Paul has to declare to them is the revelation that the Messiah came and offers us salvation. It has everything to do with their daily prayer. "Hear O Israel, the LORD your God, the LORD is one." Jesus, who is One with the Father, has demonstrated the glory of God in His life, death, and resurrection for our salvation (John 1:14; 2 Corinthians 4:6). The coming of the Messiah was the most

Commented [PW1]: Psalm 62:1 (ESV)

¹ For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.

Commented [PW2]: Psalm 27:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

Commented [PW3]: Psalm 25:4-5 (ESV)

⁴ Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

Commented [PW4]: Psalm 130:5-6 (ESV)

⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

⁶ my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

Commented [PW5]: John 14:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

Commented [PW6]: John 14:26 (ESV)

²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Commented [PW7]: Acts 13:12 (ESV)

¹² Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

Commented [PW8]: Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (ESV)

⁴ "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.

⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Commented [PW9]: Psalm 106:13 (ESV)

¹³ But they soon forgot his works; they did not wait for his counsel.

Commented [PW10]: John 1:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Commented [PW11]: 2 Corinthians 4:6 (ESV)

⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

important event in not only Jewish history, but world history. The synagogue of Antioch in Galatia was unaware of it. Paul started his message with the history leading up to Jesus coming.

17 The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. 18 And for about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. Acts 13:17-18 He begins with God's sovereign election of the Jews as God's people and how He made them a great nation even while they were in bondage to Egypt. There is that lesson again of what the world considers a difficulty God is using for His wonderful purposes. Then God powerfully brought them out of Egypt and led them with the pillar of cloud by day and fire by night. Their refusal to listen to God resulted in what should have been a six-week journey turning into forty years of wandering.

During that time God "put up with them." That is an abbreviated way of saying the people were rebellious and stubborn and refused to be changed by all they saw and heard. The older generation had to die off before the new nation could enter the Promised Land (Numbers 14:28-29).

19 And after destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance. Acts 13:19 God gave them houses they did not build and fields they did not plant (Deuteronomy 6:10-11). The Canaanite's wickedness had become so vile that God's judgment was that they be utterly destroyed (Genesis 15:16). This was the land that God promised to Abraham (Genesis 12:7). Archeologists have discovered the mass graves of sacrificed Canaanite babies. Sexual debauchery was a part of their regular worship of the gods of fertility. The only thing we learn from history is that we never learn from history. How our nation needs a renewed fear of the Lord and His righteous judgments!

20 All this took about 450 years. And after that he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. 21 Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. Acts 13:20-21 Here is a good way to place approximate times in Scripture. Captivity in Egypt to the Promised Land is about 450 years. The period of the judges is about 400 years and ends with Samuel, the last judge, anointing Saul as the first king shortly before 1000 B.C. Paul is subtly conveying the rebellious history of the Jewish nation. They refused to go into the Promised Land when first directed to do so. They didn't drive out all the inhabitants, which later led to idolatry and the downfall of the nation. They refused to have the Lord reign over them by demanding a king lead them. This reminded those in the Antioch synagogue how much they needed the Messiah to come and put the Law in their hearts and change their hearts from stone to flesh (Jeremiah 31:33; Ezekiel 11:19).

22 And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.' Acts 13:22 After Saul's demise, God chose David who God described as "a man after my heart, who will do all my will." What a description! David learned to

Commented [PW12]: Numbers 14:28-29 (ESV)

²⁸ Say to them, 'As I live, declares the LORD, what you have said in my hearing I will do to you:

²⁹ your dead bodies shall fall in this wilderness, and of all your number, listed in the census from twenty years old and upward, who have grumbled against me,

Commented [PW13]: Deuteronomy 6:10-11 (ESV)

¹⁰ "And when the LORD your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build,

¹¹ and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full,

Commented [PW14]: Genesis 15:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

Commented [PW15]: Genesis 12:7 (ESV)

⁷ Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

Commented [PW16]: Jeremiah 31:33 (ESV)

³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Commented [PW17]: Ezekiel 11:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh,

listen to God while out in the fields with His sheep. He loved to sing to the Lord a new song, many of which appear in the book of Psalms (Psalm 33:3). "A man who will do all my will" is a gracious description, for David committed adultery and murder. However, David also understood the grace and mercy of God when we are genuinely repentant (Psalm 51:17). This was Paul's abbreviated history of the Jews leading up to the coming of the Messiah.

²³ Of this man's offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised.

Acts 13:23 God promised an eternal king would come in the line of David, One who would be called Mighty God and Everlasting Father (Isaiah 9:6). This was the hope and expectation of Israel. However, they missed an important piece of the predictions. The Messiah would be a suffering servant who would bear our sins, be cut off, and afterward would see the light of life and justify many (Isaiah 53:8-12). They had focused on the victorious eternal reign promised to this Savior. Their interpretation was only on the future worldwide reign and not of His reigning in our hearts. It is important for us to note that God declared He is the only true God and Savior (Isaiah 45:21). If there is an eternal Savior, then He must be one with God, as the names of this Messiah given through Isaiah indicate. Paul's first point is that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises to bring One from the line of David, the One Isaiah promised to be king of the Jews and a light to the nations of the world (Isaiah 49:6).

²⁴ Before his coming, John had proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. ²⁵ And as John was finishing his course, he said, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but behold, after me one is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.' Acts 13:24-25 Next Paul pointed them to the words of the prophet John the Baptist. They had heard that John declared he was not the Messiah, but merely preparing the way for this One who was so much greater than he. It was now about fifteen years since the death of John. Paul is proclaiming that Jesus is the One whom John was declaring would come after him. That is his second point.

²⁶ "Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation. Acts 13:26 Once again Paul addresses the two groups, Jews and Gentiles, telling them this message from the prophets is to us all. Paul is declaring what Jesus told him to declare when he was converted (Acts 9:15). The message is for everyone who hears it, not just the Jews. Salvation is for all who will come to God by faith in what Jesus has done for us. And what is "the message of salvation." The Messiah had come. Believe in Him. Place your faith and trust in Him. Next, Paul will continue to expand on the message of salvation by explaining what Jesus' death accomplished.

²⁷ For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him. ²⁸ And though they found in him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him executed. Acts 13:27-28 The synagogue in Antioch Pisidia had probably heard of the death of Jesus. Paul was explaining why that had to happen.

Commented [PW18]: Psalm 33:3 (ESV)

³ Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

Commented [PW19]: Psalm 51:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Commented [PW20]: Isaiah 9:6 (ESV)

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Commented [PW21]: Isaiah 53:8-12 (ESV)

⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?

⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Commented [PW22]: Isaiah 45:21 (ESV)

²¹ Declare and present your case; let them take counsel together! Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the LORD? And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me.

Commented [PW23]: Isaiah 49:6 (ESV)

⁶ he says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Commented [PW24]: Acts 9:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.

The rulers didn't understand the Scriptures. They had misinterpreted them. In doing so they fulfilled them by having Jesus put to death. What convinced the rulers of the need to kill Him was Jesus' declaration of the truth that He is the Messiah. At His trial, the High Priest asked Jesus if He was the Messiah, the Son of God. Jesus answered in the affirmative (Mark 14:61-62). Since they did not have the authority to stone Jesus, they handed Him over to Pilate to have Him crucified as an insurrectionist.

²⁹ And when they had carried out all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. Acts 13:29 What was written that they carried out? As was written centuries before, they unjustly condemned Him, abused Him (Isaiah 50:6), pierced His hands and feet (Psalm 22:16), cast lots for His clothes (Psalm 22:18), gave him vinegar to drink (Psalm 69:21), and put him in a rich man's tomb (Isaiah 53:9).

³⁰ But God raised him from the dead, ³¹ and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people. Acts 13:31-32 BUT GOD! The world can do its worst, *but God* is on the throne of heaven and works ALL things together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purposes (Romans 8:28). There will be trouble in life, *but God* is on the throne of heaven. The world became so wicked that God sent a flood to destroy it all, *but God* remembered Noah (Genesis 8:1). King Abimelech was going to add Sarah to his harem, *but God* gave him a dream (Genesis 20:3). Laban wanted to kill Jacob, *but God* warned him not to harm him (Genesis 31:24). Jacob and his sons would have died in a famine, *but God* sent Joseph to Egypt (Genesis 45:8). Saul and his army tried to kill David, *but God* delivered him from Saul's hand (1 Samuel 23:14). **In every one of these interventions, the line of the Messiah was at stake and we read "but God."** I could name a dozen more situations where the Bible does not use the expression "but God" and yet in each case had God not intervened the promises of God would not have come to pass in the way He declared.

God is true to His Word. We are fallen men and women who deserve justice for our sins, but God so loved the world that He sent His only Son. Herod the Great tried to kill Him. Herod Antipas tried to capture Him. The Jews tried to stone Him numerous times, but God intervened because He loves us. They were eventually allowed to kill Jesus on a cross, **BUT GOD** used it for the salvation of our souls. And as you walk through this life in Christ you may wonder at times if you have the strength to go on, BUT GOD is the strength of your heart and your portion forever (Psalm 73:26). If you will wait on Him and His Word, you will mount up with wings like eagles and soar (Isaiah 40:28-31)! There will be times when God will stir up the nest and you'll feel like He is pushing you out and off a cliff, but as you fall He will bear you up on eagle's wings and teach you to soar on high (Deuteronomy 32:11).

³² And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, ³³ this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you." Acts 13:32-33 This is the good news, the gospel, that what God promised He has fulfilled. His Word can't fail. He

Commented [PW25]: Mark 14:61-62 (ESV)

⁶¹ But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?"

⁶² And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven."

Commented [PW26]: Isaiah 50:6 (ESV)

⁶ I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting.

Commented [PW27]: Psalm 22:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet—

Commented [PW28]: Psalm 22:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

Commented [PW29]: Psalm 69:21 (ESV)

²¹ They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.

Commented [PW30]: Isaiah 53:9 (ESV)

⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Commented [PW31]: Romans 8:28 (ESV)

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Commented [PW32]: Genesis 8:1 (ESV)

¹ But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided.

Commented [PW33]: Genesis 20:3 (ESV)

³ But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night and said to him, "Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife."

Commented [PW34]: Genesis 31:24 (ESV)

²⁴ But God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream by night and said to him, "Get up, for you must depart, for the time has come for you to return to your home."

Commented [PW35]: Genesis 45:8 (ESV)

⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has sent me before you.

Commented [PW36]: 1 Samuel 23:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ And David remained in the strongholds in the wilderness, in the hill country of the wilderness of Judah.

Commented [PW37]: Psalm 73:26 (ESV)

²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Commented [PW38]: Isaiah 40:28-31 (ESV)

²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

Commented [PW39]: Deuteronomy 32:11 (ESV)

¹¹ Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that flutters over its young,

promised to send us a Savior, to crush the head of the serpent (Genesis 3:15), and to make us a nation of kings and priests unto God (Revelation 5:10). He fulfilled that promise by raising Jesus. Resurrection is the victory over death. It shows us Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf was accepted by God.

The second psalm is a prediction of the Messiah (the Son), of the world recognizing Him as Lord, and of His powerful reign over all the earth. Paul declared that the phrase, "This day have I begotten You," was not applied to the birth of Jesus, but rather at the resurrection. While Jesus has been the Son of God and one with the Father through all eternity, His victory over death made Him the eternal King that God promised to David (2 Samuel 7:12-14a). In that prophecy, God declared the Messiah will be to Him a Son. The quote by the Apostle Paul was declaring that Jesus' resurrection showed Him to be the eternal King whom God was referring to in the prophetic promise to David and repeated in various forms by the prophets (Isaiah 9:7; Psalm 89:4; Daniel 7:13-14).

Paul is very methodic in laying out a case for Jesus being the Messiah. First, he started off with the history of the Jews and their need for a Messiah. Then he moved the fact that this Messiah was promised to be from the line of David. Next he reminded them that John the Baptist had declared he was preparing the way for the Messiah. Finally, he told them that Jesus was the One, from the line of David, predicted by John the Baptist. But their leaders did not recognize Him and fulfilled the prophecies by having Him crucified. We stopped at the point where Paul pointed to the resurrection as the proof that Jesus is the eternal King, the Son, who will reign forever.

We'll continue the rest of Paul's message next Sunday in which he brings up more Scriptures to prove to those gathered in the synagogue that Jesus is the Messiah and the One in whom we have forgiveness of sins. You may not believe those ancient writings are inspired, and yet they claim the impossible. Who can reign forever? Only One who conquered death! Who in all of history has done that and shown himself alive to hundreds of people other than Jesus? That's pretty convincing evidence. But the wonder of it all is that it was done in love that we might find forgiveness and eternal life with Him. Why wouldn't you want to know Him and the wonder of His love?

Questions

- 1 Why do we need to hear from God?
- 2 Why did Paul start with the word "listen"?
- 3 What subtle warnings does Paul give?
- 4 How do they apply to us?
- 5 Why does Paul focus on David?
- 6 What is Paul's first point?
- 7 What is Paul's second point?
- 8 How did the rulers accidentally fulfill prophecy?
- 9 What do the many quotations of "but God" tell us?
- 10 Why does Paul cite the second Psalm?

Commented [PW40]: Genesis 3:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

Commented [PW41]: Revelation 5:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

Commented [PW42]: 2 Samuel 7:12-14a (ESV)

¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ^{14a} I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son.

Commented [PW43]: Isaiah 9:7 (ESV)

⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Commented [PW44]: Psalm 89:4 (ESV)

⁴ "I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations." Selah

Commented [PW45]: Daniel 7:13-14 (ESV)

¹³ "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.

¹⁴ And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

Page 4: [1] Commented [PW34] Paul 8/18/2017 10:06:00 AM

Genesis 31:24 (ESV)

²⁴ But God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream by night and said to him, “Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad.”

Page 4: [2] Commented [PW35] Paul 8/18/2017 10:07:00 AM

Genesis 45:8 (ESV)

⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

Page 4: [3] Commented [PW36] Paul 8/18/2017 10:11:00 AM

1 Samuel 23:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ And David remained in the strongholds in the wilderness, in the hill country of the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God did not give him into his hand.

Page 4: [4] Commented [PW38] Paul 8/18/2017 11:56:00 AM

Isaiah 40:28-31 (ESV)

²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.

³⁰ Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted;

³¹ but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Page 4: [5] Commented [PW39] Paul 8/26/2017 9:03:00 AM

Deuteronomy 32:11 (ESV)

¹¹ Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that flutters over its young, spreading out its wings, catching them, bearing them on its pinions,