

# Apply The Word

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## Message Info

### Title:

The Holy Spirit Calls,  
Speaks, and Sends

### Speaker:

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### Scriptures:

Acts 13:1-2

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**Theme:** Submit to the Holy Spirit and he will lead you to live for God's glory in this world.

**Introduction:** Acts 13 contains an interesting cast of characters. There is a diversity in ethnicity, in background, in cultural influence, and in their relation to the Lord. But they are working together to fight the spiritual war that God has for his people in this age. And by far the most important person in this chapter is the Holy Spirit. He is at work through it all, and his activity is critical for the church and the ongoing spread of the gospel.

We can highlight 3 aspects of the Spirit's activity in this chapter:

### 1. The Holy Spirit speaks

As the church was gathered, they were seeking the Lord's will through prayer and fasting.

Through that process, the Holy Spirit directed that Barnabas and Saul were to be set apart to go out as church planters.

Jesus has promised the Spirit as the Helper to lead and guide his church into all truth. This example was one of many steps recorded in Acts that demonstrate the fulfillment of that promise.

The Spirit continues his activity today in the lives of his people. He continues to lead us into all truth and to make effective the fruits of the gospel in people's lives.

### 2. The Holy Spirit calls

The end of v. 2 references the call of the Holy Spirit on Barnabas and Saul for this gospel work. And the Spirit continues this work today—he calls the church to action.

In our various vocations the Spirit calls us to work for the Lord's glory and the good of those he has entrusted to our care.

Barnabas and Saul got onto a boat and sailed for Cyprus because the Holy Spirit called them and the church commissioned them.

### 3. The Holy Spirit sends

The premier NT example of how God sends is seen in Jesus: "for God so loved the world that he gave his Son..." (John 3:16).

God also sends his disciples into the world as his ambassadors, calling others to be reconciled to him.

**Application:** the Holy Spirit equips us to fight. We should strongly oppose those who are rebelling against God and recruiting others to do the same (like Bar-Jesus). We should also love those who are lost and need to be redeemed. We will be persecuted for our fidelity to Christ; but we will also experience the Spirit's presence and activity as we submit to his will.

### Questions:

1. How do you see the Holy Spirit at work in your life? What fruit is he working to produce?
2. How are you sacrificing for God's glory in your daily life? How are you demonstrating radical obedience to him?
3. How are you facing opposition for your obedience to God?