



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of July 6, 2025

Acts 13:1-4

[1] Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. [2] While 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." [3] Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. [4] So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

1. Why is the preaching and teaching of the Word of God the bedrock and foundation for evangelism? What do you think would happen to a new church in a predominantly unreached part of the world, if the church did not prioritize the preaching and teaching of God's word? What happens to any church at any time in any place if it does not prioritize the preaching and teaching of God's word?
2. Explain how a steady diet of God's word ensures the longevity of the church and the spreading of the gospel. On the flip side, what happens to the health of the church and evangelism, when Christians neglect the study of the Word of God and don't know the foundations and fundamentals of the faith?
3. Based on your own understanding of and commitment to learn the Word of God, how strong would your church be if everyone was at the same level as you?
4. How would you define the intellectual aspect of the Christian faith? How about the experiential aspect of our faith? How do both aspects of our faith, the intellectual and the experiential, inform and validate one another?
5. The leaders, prophets and teachers of the church in Antioch were very different; one was black, one was rich and influential, one formerly persecuted the church. Why do you think it is important for the church to have a leadership structure where responsibility and authority are shared among a group of individuals rather than being concentrated in a single leader.
6. Why do you think worshiping the Lord together as a church is so important? How does God communicate with you personally when we worship together as a church?
7. How and why do you think fasting enhances a Christian's worship of God?
8. When sending missionaries out into the world, why is it important to send godly men and women who have exhibited a pattern of living out their faith and serving God's church, rather than those who may not be ready?