

## Engage in Prayer and Fasting – God Can Do It Again

*In the church at Antioch there were a number of prophets and teachers of the Word, including Barnabas, Simeon from Niger, Lucius the Libyan, Manaen (the childhood companion of King Herod Antipas), and Saul. While they were worshiping as priests before the Lord in prayer and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “I have called Barnabas and Saul to do an important work for me. Now, release them to and fulfill it.” So after they fasted and prayed, they laid hands on them and sent them off.*

*Acts 13:1-3*

When the church in Antioch was going through severe persecution, the Word of God was spreading and flourishing (Acts 12:24). Their evangelistic efforts were on overdrive and people were getting saved. It was a difficult and exciting times for the church. And, God is going to do it again in our days.

The church in Antioch had good reason to retreat, be complacent, to pull the plug, and shut down because their lives were on the firing line, but, no, they were persistent in prayer and fasting. They took the hard call. They prayed and fasted, fasted and prayed.

What can we learn from this narrative?

1. God is a God who has a plan. He is intentional in all He does!  
- (V2) *“Separate for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”*

*Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord, “plan to prosper you and not to harm you, plan to give you hope and a future.”*

*John 20:31 “But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have eternal life in his name.”*

2. Every plan of God is communicated to us in the form of an idea, a concept, or an insight.

*(2) They were worshiping the Lord and fasting.*

Luke didn't tell us how long they were doing that before the Spirit broke out. What he told us was that as in the middle of praying and fasting, the Spirit did break out and gave them specific instruction.

Have you been asking God for a God idea, a God intervention in your difficult position? Are you intentional to getting/receiving it?

Proverbs 16:1-4 *“We humans make plans, but the Lord has the final word. (v2) We may think we know what is right, but the Lord is the judge of our motives, (3) Share your plans with the Lord and you will succeed. (4) The Lord has a reason for everything he does.”* CEV

3. God's assignment is God's appointment.  
V2) the Holy Spirit instructed them to set apart Saul and Barnabas for the work I have called them to do.

Beloved, God already has a work for you to do. You would not know it by scratching your head thinking that you'll figure it out one day. If you are a person who wants to take care of your future, or that of your family, these realities should be enough reason for you and I to wait on God and get close to Him. Waiting does not mean doing nothing! Would you actively wait on the Lord?

Psalm 27:14 *“Wait for and confidently expect the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for and confidently expect the Lord.”*

4. What you think insignificant today might not necessarily be insignificant at all. In a lot of times, we don't see the fruit of what we do until later down the track.

V3) *So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.*

Who would think that their laying on of hands to Barnabas and Saul would mean greater things further down the track. Who would think that what they had engaged to do would make a global impact! They probably didn't think their humble gesture of dependence on God would put their humble church in the map, let alone their names in the pages of the Scriptures. He did it to them. He can do it to you too. Engage yourself in prayer and fasting.