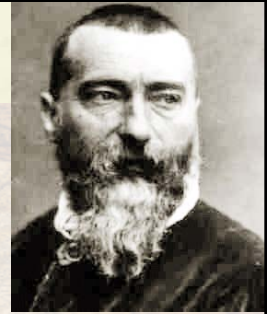


— Ne faites pas dire : « Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose. » — Et la France peut encore reprendre son rang, —



- Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr, 1848
 - « Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose »
 - “The more things change, the more they stay the same”
 - ***Sometimes the thing we hope will bring change doesn't help at all***
- When might that be true?
- For what really matters, where do you put your hope for meaningful progress?

The Power of the Church

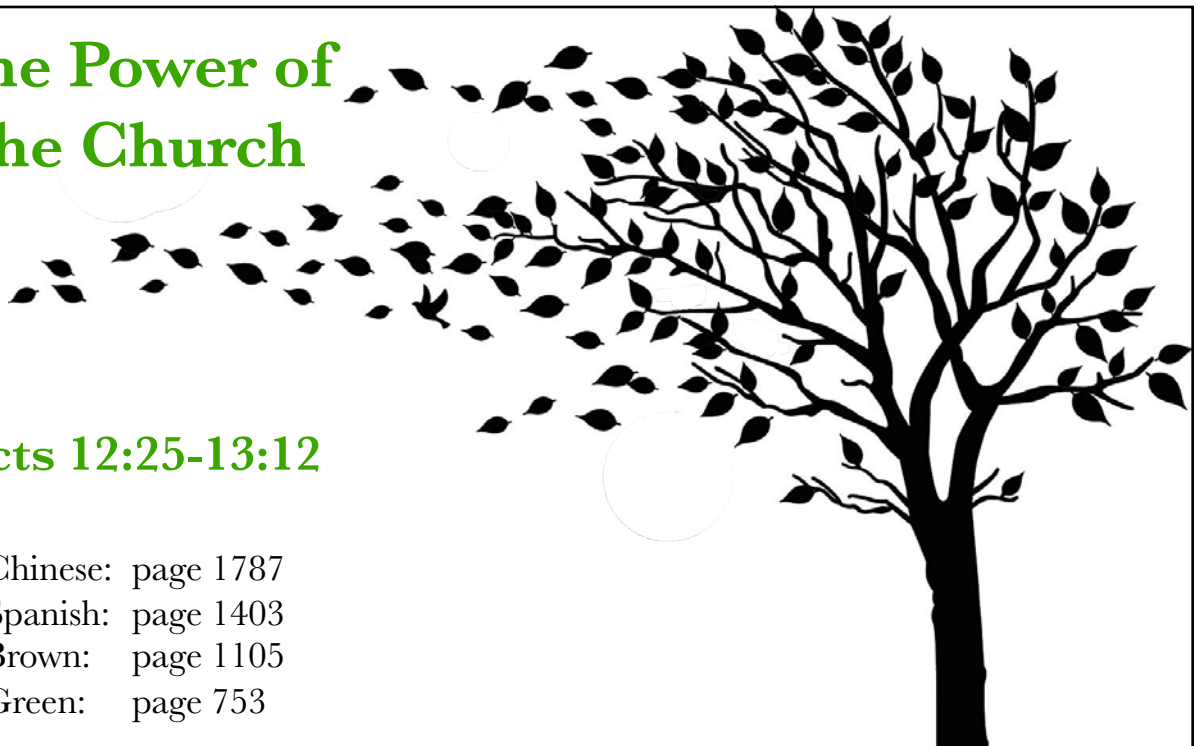
Acts 12:25-13:12

Chinese: page 1787

Spanish: page 1403

Brown: page 1105

Green: page 753



The Book of Acts

The Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)

- What Jesus did and taught
- Especially His life, death, and resurrection

Acts

- What Jesus continued to do and to teach through His people by the power of the Holy Spirit

How was that supposed to happen?

Acts 1:8

Jesus said to His disciples:

“But **you will receive power**

when the Holy Spirit comes on you;

and **you will be my witnesses**

in **Jerusalem**, **Acts 1:1–7:60**

and in all **Judea and Samaria**, **Acts 8:1–11:18**

and to the **ends of the earth.**” **Acts 11:19–28:31**



- The progress of the **Good News** to this point in Acts
 - **Because of Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection, every person can be entirely forgiven, restored to a relationship of love with God, at deep peace with God, and given the promise of eternal life of health and wholeness, all as a gift of love from God to us**
 - “Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.” *Acts 8:4*
 - As they went, they made known the Good News
- Starting in Acts 13...
 - They went **in order to** make known the Good News
 - **intentionally including** those who were seen as ‘far from’ God

**Paul's first journey
to take the Good News
to people who hadn't
heard it before**



Acts 12:25-13:12

- 12:25:** Barnabas & Saul return to Antioch: the new “center”
- 13:1-3:** • They had travelled from Antioch to Jerusalem with money to provide relief in the famine
- 4-5:** • John (also known as Mark)
- 6-8:** • Barnabas's cousin
- 9-12:** • In a prominent family in the Jewish church in Jerusalem
- From now on, the Jewish+Gentile church in Antioch is the “center” of the Christian church

Chinese: page 1787
 Spanish: page 1403
 Brown: page 1105
 Green: page 753

Acts 12:25-13:12

12:25: Barnabas & Saul return to Antioch: the new “center”

13:1-3: The Holy Spirit calls the church
to send Barnabas & Saul (B&S) for the Spirit’s work

4-5: • Diverse leadership of the Antioch church:

6-8: • race, ethnicity, age

9-12: • immigrants to Antioch

- Intentional & devoted worship and prayer

- The Holy Spirit calls the church to join His plan for Barnabas & Saul

- The church releases Barnabas & Saul and provides for them

Acts 12:25-13:12

12:25: Barnabas & Saul return to Antioch: the new “center”

13:1-3: The Holy Spirit calls the church
to send Barnabas & Saul (B&S) for the Spirit’s work

4-5: B&S proclaimed the Good News across Cyprus

6-8: • Good strategies:

9-12: • Antioch church had connections on Cyprus

- Barnabas was from Cyprus

- Synagogues had Jews & Gentiles

who expected the Messiah and believed Scripture

- Not clear if the Holy Spirit explicitly directed them

- John (Mark) joined them

Acts 12:25-13:12

12:25: Barnabas & Saul return to Antioch: the new “center”

13:1-3: The Holy Spirit calls the church
to send Barnabas & Saul (B&S) for the Spirit’s work

4-5: B&S proclaimed the Good News across Cyprus

6-8: Interest in and opposition to the Good News

- 9-12:
- Opposition: Bar-Jesus (“son of Jesus/Joshua”)
 - Sorcerer (Elymas), Jewish, false prophet
 - Interest: Sergius-Paulus (top Roman authority)
 - “Intelligent” is seen as insufficient for knowing God
 - We need the “Spirit of wisdom and revelation”
 - Elymas tried to prevent belief in Christ

Acts 12:25-13:12

12:25: Barnabas & Saul return to Antioch: the new “center”

13:1-3: The Holy Spirit calls the church
to send Barnabas & Saul (B&S) for the Spirit’s work

4-5: B&S proclaimed the Good News across Cyprus

6-8: Interest in and opposition to the Good News

- 9-12: Saul (Paul) silences Elymas and Sergius believes
- Filled with the Spirit=with the authority of God
 - Declaring truth of Elymas’s opposition to God
 - Declaring God’s powerful yet gracious judgment
 - Sergius Paulus believed
 - Amazed at this teaching about Jesus

The Big Idea

The progress of the Good News of Jesus Christ

Knowledge

Belief

Transformation

Individual & Community

Evangelism & Discipleship

is a continuum

Where belief was not

found before

comes through Spirit-filled messengers

who proclaim (and live)

the Gospel

with great faith and boldness

The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.

John 3:8

You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

Isaiah 55:12

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses...

Acts 1:8



The Big Idea

The progress of the Good News of Jesus Christ
comes through Spirit-filled messengers
who proclaim (and live)
the Gospel
with great faith and boldness

Application

**Have strong faith and high expectations
for the progress of the Gospel in the Spirit**

- High expectations
 - Maybe not “fast” or “big”
 - Rather: God honoring & significant

*Application***Have strong faith and high expectations
for the progress of the Gospel in the Spirit**

- High expectations
- In ourselves first, then for others
 - Like putting on an oxygen mask in a plane
 - Jesus said, “First take the log out of your own eye, so then you can see to help others...” *Matthew 7:5*

*Application***Have strong faith and high expectations
for the progress of the Gospel in the Spirit**

- High expectations
- In ourselves first, then for others
- Faith-filled prayer
 - Intentional, expectant, persistent, listening
 - Embodied in various cultural expressions

Application

Have strong faith and high expectations for the progress of the Gospel in the Spirit

- High expectations
- In ourselves first, then for others
- Faith-filled prayer
- Faith-filled action
 - Natural and supernatural wisdom
 - Listen for and follow the Holy Spirit
 - Watch for God’s work through natural means
 - Anticipate and “precipitate” God’s action
 - Like Peter saying, “Ask me to walk on water to you...”

The Big Idea

Knowledge
Belief
Transformation
Individual & Community

← The progress of the Good News of Jesus Christ
 comes through Spirit-filled messengers
 who proclaim (and live)
 the Gospel
 with great faith and boldness

Our confident hope for our growing
experience of the deep
goodness of God and our relationship
of love with Him, and
of an
abundant life forever
as His people together,

**is in the Good News that Jesus
died and rose again to give us life,
and He has given us His Holy Spirit**

We trust and make known this Good News!

