

# Promise Fulfilled

## Part 4

Acts 13

# Promise Fulfilled for Salvation!

- In Acts chapter 13, leaders in the church at Antioch, including prophets and teachers from North Africa were together worshipping and praying. In this environment, the Holy Spirit called Barnabas and Saul to a specific work.
- On their journey, Barnabas and Saul (also known as Paul), met with and overcame opposition.
- Paul and Barnabas' work was to obey God's command to be a light for the Gentiles, to bring salvation (rescue) to the ends of the earth.
- For followers of Jesus, salvation is comprehensive. It encompasses the entirety of our being. Through salvation, our bodies are saved. Our minds are saved. Our emotions, our personalities are saved! Jesus has conquered both sin and death. One day there will be a new heaven and a new earth. We'll have new resurrection bodies. Salvation extends to the earth that God created.
- The good news is that God's kingdom is arriving! What a great kingdom it is! Filled with righteousness, peace, justice and love.
- The kingdom is proclaimed through us. As God's representatives on the Earth, there's work for us to do!
- Let's continue today in our examination of the Word of Exhortation that Paul gave, and the role of Words of Exhortation in our lives.

- Here's the context: Paul and Barnabas had traveled to Pisidian Antioch. On the Sabbath they entered the synagogue.

Acts 13: 15-16: <sup>15</sup> After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the leaders of the synagogue sent word to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have a word of exhortation for the people, please speak."

<sup>16</sup> Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: "Fellow Israelites and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me!

Paul seized the opportunity to give a "Word of Exhortation".

- Paul's address was riveting! They were invited to speak further. On the next Sabbath, almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord!

- Let's Continue to Explore. What is a Word of Exhortation?
- What Made Paul's Word of Exhortation so Compelling?
- First a quick review:



Exhortation  
– comes  
from the  
Greek word  
“Paraklesis”

- This Word can mean Encouragement, in the sense of to Comfort, to Cheer up.
- But here it’s means Encouragement in the sense of a speech that is:
  - Persuasive
  - Stirring
  - Instructive
- As a result, I gain perspective. The pieces fit together. Where I was confused, now I get it.
- We’re looking at Three Elements of Exhortation

# Three Elements of Exhortation

## #1 Pinpoint Perceptions from the Past

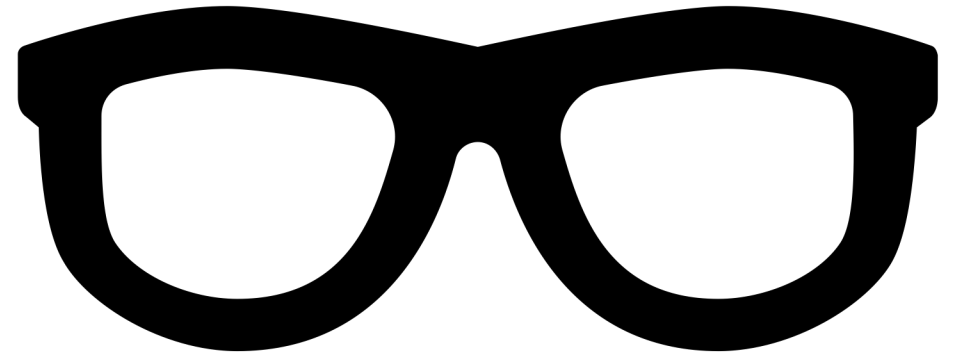
- Pinpoint – identify and zero in on
- Perceptions – understanding, interpretation and insight
- Past – an earlier time, history


# Perceptions from the Past that Paul Pinpointed

- Paul told the story of the history of the people of Israel. God chose them.
- He delivered them out of slavery and prospered them in Egypt
- He put up with them for 40 years wandering through the desert
- He kicked out other nations to give His people land in Canaan
- That process took 450 years
- God gave Israel judges, then Saul for a king, then David as king.
- David was a man after God's own heart
- From David's descendants came the Savior Jesus – just as God promised.
- Before Jesus came, John preached repentance and baptism.
- Perceptions Help Us To See!


# Hindsight is 20/10!

- Perceptions from the Past are Hindsight.
- Better than 20/20!
- With 20/10 Vision you can see things that are distant in even sharper view
- And you can see things in front of you clearly





The Lord  
Pinpoints  
Perceptions  
(Understanding  
and Insights)  
from Our Pasts

- Highlighting Key Elements in Our Histories, In Our Stories
  - Demonstrating How He Has:
    - Protected Us
    - Provided For Us
    - Developed Us
  - Noting what has (or is) taking a Long Time
  - God can Use Our Stories as an Inspiration for others
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Three  
Elements  
of  
Exhortation

## #2 Positions Us in the Present

- Position – to orient, to direct, to place
- Present – the here and now; the current period of time

# Acts 13:38-39 (NIV)

• <sup>38</sup> “Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. <sup>39</sup> Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses.

- **Forgiveness**

- Your sins were a big deal. But forgiveness means they are not being held against you.

- You’re off the bench

- You’re no longer ejected or suspended

- You’re back in the game

- **Justification**

- The declaration by God as judge that you are “in the right”

- You’re a member of God’s covenant family

- Justification is by faith



## Hebrews 10:12-14 (NIV)

<sup>12</sup> But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, <sup>13</sup> and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. <sup>14</sup> For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

- Christ died for our sins past, present, and future!
- Salvation is not dependent upon us doing everything right all the time
- Salvation is by grace through faith
- Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)
- <sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast.

# Romans 5:19 (NIV)

- <sup>19</sup> For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.
- As followers of Jesus :
- We were sinners
- We've been made righteous
- We can approach God with confidence
- Hebrews 4:16 (NIV)
- <sup>16</sup> Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.
- **IN CHRIST OUR STATUS IS CHANGED!!**



## Acts 13:40-41 (NIV)

<sup>40</sup> Take care that what the prophets have said does not happen to you:

<sup>41</sup> “Look, you scoffers,  
wonder and perish,  
for I am going to do something in your days  
that you would never believe,  
even if someone told you.”

This quote is taken from the book Habakkuk 1:5. In this book, Habakkuk is having a dialogue with God. Habakkuk is distressed. He is perplexed. He cries out to God about all the violence and destruction that he is witnessing. He asks the Lord, why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrong? The Lord is planning to use an even more wicked people, the Babylonians, to punish Judah for their evil. And God says, I am going to do something in your days that you would never believe”

# Discussion and Prayer

- Discuss and Pray for each other:
- How has the Forgiveness of God impacted your life?
- Describe what it means to you to be a Member of God's Family
- Talk about what it means to be confident in approaching God
- What does it look like to be "In The Game" rather than "On the Bench" with God.