

# Promise Fulfilled

## Part 5

Acts 13

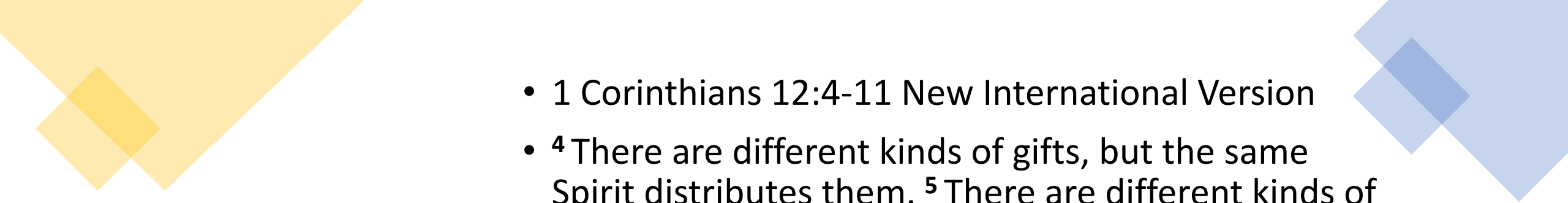
# God Made a Promise and Kept It!

- What Did He Promise and To Whom? God Promised The People of Israel that through their descendants, He would send a Savior.
- How Did He Fulfill His Promise? God Fulfilled that Promise by sending His Son Jesus and Raising Him From the Dead, Never to See Decay.
- In Christ we have Victory Over Death. Why? Because Jesus Wasn't Just Raised From the Dead, He Was Resurrected, With a Resurrection Body, Never To Die Again! There are Miracles in the Bible in Which People are Raised from the Dead (for example Lazarus). But These People Eventually Died Again. Not So With Jesus! Salvation is Comprehensive. It includes our Bodies, Minds and Emotions, the Entirety of our Beings.
- Through Jesus, Forgiveness of Sins is Proclaimed to Us. In Christ we are "Off the Bench", no longer separated by Sin (past, present or future) and able to Fulfill the Role He has for us as His image-bearers.
- Acts 13 details how Paul and Barnabus were Called to a Work, which was prophesied about the Messiah in Isaiah 49:6:
- "I have made you<sup>f</sup> a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."




# Barnabas and Saul (aka Paul) were Called. How? The Holy Spirit Spoke.

- Acts 13:2 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.”
- The Holy Spirit is still speaking today! What are some ways? Acts 2:17-18 (NIV)
- <sup>17</sup> “In the last days, God says,  
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
your young men will see visions,  
your old men will dream dreams.  
<sup>18</sup> Even on my servants, both men and women,  
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,  
and they will prophesy.
- The Lord is still speaking through prophesy, visions and dreams – young people, old people, men, women – All God’s servants are included irrespective of age or gender.
- These are the “last days” the period between Jesus’s resurrection and his return.



Prophecy is a  
Spiritual Gift. The  
Holy Spirit  
Distributes  
Spiritual Gifts to  
all Believers

- 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 New International Version
  - <sup>4</sup> There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. <sup>5</sup> There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.
  - <sup>7</sup> Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. <sup>8</sup> To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,<sup>[a]</sup> and to still another the interpretation of tongues.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>11</sup> All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.
- 


# Let's Desire The Gifts - Especially Prophecy!

1 Corinthians 14:1-3 (NIV)  
14 Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy. <sup>2</sup> For anyone who speaks in a tongue<sup>[a]</sup> does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit. <sup>3</sup> But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort.

- No need to be nervous!
- Spiritual gifts are orderly. 1 Corinthians 14:32-33 (NIV)<sup>32</sup> The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. <sup>33</sup> For God is not a God of disorder but of peace—as in all the congregations of the Lord's people.
- Prophecy is to be tested. 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22 (NIV)
- <sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not treat prophecies with contempt <sup>21</sup> but test them all; hold on to what is good, <sup>22</sup> reject every kind of evil.
- TRUE Prophecy is characterized by one or more of the following:
  - Strengthening – oikodome – Building us up as a temple to be a suitable home for God
  - Encouragement – paraklesis – advise, warn, urge, or persuade in the Lord
  - Comfort – provide consolation



## Spiritual Gifts Need to be Utilized & Developed

- The apostle Paul wrote the following to his spiritual son Timothy, which is instructive for us:
  - 1 Timothy 4:14 (NIV)
  - <sup>14</sup> Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.
  - 2 Timothy 1:6 (NIV)
  - <sup>6</sup> For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.
- 

# A Personal Prophecy and Analogy to Paul's Exhortation to the Gentiles


- Isaiah 9:2a (NIV)
- <sup>2</sup>The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
- Isaiah 9:6-7 (NIV)
- <sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his  
shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- <sup>7</sup>Of the greatness of his  
government and peace  
there will be no end.  
He will reign on David's throne  
and over his kingdom, establishing  
and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.  
The zeal of the LORD Almighty  
will accomplish this.




# 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



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
- 

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



Three  
Elements  
of  
Exhortation

## #3 Propels Us Forward with Purpose

- Propel – drive onward
- Purpose – intentionality

## Acts 13: 47-52

- <sup>47</sup> For this is what the Lord has commanded us:
- ““I have made you<sup>[f]</sup> a light for the Gentiles, that you<sup>[g]</sup> may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’<sup>[h]</sup>”
- <sup>48</sup> When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.
- <sup>49</sup> The word of the Lord spread through the whole region. <sup>50</sup> But the Jewish leaders incited the God-fearing women of high standing and the leading men of the city. They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. <sup>51</sup> So they shook the dust off their feet as a warning to them and went to Iconium. <sup>52</sup> And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

## They Shook The Dust Off Their Feet

- Paul and Barnabus were obedient to the call of the Lord to Pisidian Antioch
- They overcame opposition and did all that God called them to do
- When their assignment was finished, they shook the dust off their feet and went to Iconium
- We need to know when to move on. No need to feel guilty or conflicted.
- Some of us are stuck at “Pisidian Antioch” even though our work there is done.
- When your work is done, allow the Lord to move you “on to Iconium”, to propel you forward with purpose.



# Sharing and Testimonies

What has impacted you?  
How has the Lord been  
speaking to you as we've  
focused on Acts 13?