

Study of Acts 13
by Marc Gravelle
marc@bondservantsofYeshua.ca

In *Acts 13* it speaks of prophets and teachers and it names five of them

Barnabas: son of a prophet
Simeon: Hearing, shemah
Lucius: Illuminate
Manaen: Strong life that dispels chaos
Shaul: Asked

The meaning of their names indicates their dedication to Elohim, and their actions definitely confirm it.

There is a great lesson for us to learn here in these verses. It says that they ministered to YHVH. What does it mean to minister to YHVH? **HOW** does one minister to an **ALL** Powerful being who can do and have anything He wants? The only way to minister to the most High Elohim **IS** in humble obedience and in the manner that He has prescribed. There **IS NO ROOM** for **SELF** in this ministry; **ALL SELF MUST BE PUT ASIDE** and one **MUST** be willing to submit one's **WILL** as Messiah did throughout His life here on earth, in order to have the privilege of ministering to our heavenly Father. Now that we understand that they were in a state of total surrender, let us study their actions as they minister to YHVH.

It says that they fasted and the Holy Spirit spoke to them and instructed them to separate Barnabas, *Bar Navi*, בָּר נָבִיא which means *son of a prophet, a sent one*, and Saul or Sha'ul, שָׂאֻל, which means *asked, entreated, interrogated or borrowed*, to do the work that YHVH called them to do. The word Sha'ul, שָׂאֻל, is a sister word to the word Sheol, שְׂאוֹל, which means *the grave, the underworld*, also translated as *hell*.

So now that we are armed with this information, the definition of the names that YHVH chose to use in these verses, what do you think YHVH **IS** telling us through these names? First of all I believe that YHVH **IS** telling us that **IF** we want to be YHVH's **SENT ONES**, His Navi, נָבִיא, **His prophets**, we need to first learn to walk in total loving surrendered obedience to His inerrant and everlasting Word, His Torah of Life, we **NEED TO LEARN** to swallow our pride, humble ourselves before Him and obey the leaders that YHVH has put in charge of His people and when we have mastered that we need to earnestly pray and **ask** or **entreat** YHVH to **USE US TO CARRY HIS MESSAGE**, His Doctrine, **NOT OUR OWN**, to the peoples of the world, in order that they will turn to YHVH and **NOT** end up in hell, the nether world, which represents eternal damnation. As a Navi, a sent one, we need to set the example by serving YHVH in total surrendered obedience, and by setting aside our own wills, just like Messiah did when He said, in the Garden of Gethsemane just before He was to be crucified, **NOT MY WILL, BUT YOUR WILL FATHER BE DONE**. Amein.

The loving surrendered obedience that a Navi, sent one, **IS** to display and or live **BY** should be a state of mind that **WE** are constantly in and therefore when **WE** fast, it indicates to YHVH and to the world, that we are more concerned about hearing from Him, our heavenly Father, than we are about ourselves and our bodies, our fleshly desires.

Once the Holy Spirit had instructed them to separate Barnabas and Sha'ul they continued to fast and pray fervently. In *Proverbs 28:9* we are told that he that **TURNS AWAY HIS EAR** from **HEARING** the Torah of Moses, **THEN EVEN HIS PRAYER SHALL BE AN ABOMINATION** to YHVH. Therefore **IT IS** safe to say that these people spoken of here in *Acts 13* were diligently **KEEPING** the Torah of Moses, for Elohim **ANSWERED THEIR PRAYERS**.

Before they sent them away, they fasted, they prayed and they laid their hands upon them. The laying of hands upon someone suggests the transference of something from one person to another. In this case I believe **IT IS** the transferring of the Spirit of Elohim from one individual to another. The Scriptures tell us in *Romans 7:14* that the Law, the Torah **IS** spiritual, which means that **IT IS SPIRIT FILLED**. We have already established that these people kept the Torah of Moses, which **IS** called **THE LAW** in our English bibles, therefore that means that when they choose to willingly and lovingly **KEEP THE LAW OF MOSES**, they are **NOT** only filled with the Spirit of YHVH, **BUT** they are also Obedient to the Holy Spirit of YHVH, for YHVH's Holy Spirit was given to them **BY** YHVH for the very specific purpose of **CAUSING** every surrendered contrite obedient heart to follow and Obey His Torah of Life, therefore when a person is indeed **SPIRIT FILLED** it means that they follow and obey **THE LAW, THE TORAH, for the TORAH IS SPIRITUAL**. To reinforce that belief, we are told in *Ezekiel 36:26-27* *A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put MY SPIRIT within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you shall keep My judgments, and DO them*; in other words when we willingly and lovingly surrender our wills to our heavenly Father, His Spirit **CAUSES US** to **KEEP, FOLLOW and OBEY** the Torah, the Law of Elohim, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, therefore because of our love for our heavenly Father we are compelled by that love and YHVH's Spirit to obey His Words of Life. Therefore by definition every willing Torah obedient sons and or daughters of YHVH are filled with the Spirit of YHVH, who **IS** tasked with **CAUSING** every surrendered loving heart, to obey the Torah of Moses.

When a person that **IS SPIRIT FILLED**, a person that has learned to shemah the Word of Elohim, a person who has learned to hear, listen, understand, believe obey, follow and **DO** the Word of Elohim, transfers through prayer, fasting and the laying on of hands, when there is a transfer of the Holy Spirit that is within him onto someone else, the Spirit **IS NOT IN ANY DIMINISHED** within the one that **IS** willingly transferring of himself, rather the Spirit **IS MAGNIFIED** in the receiver of the Spirit of Elohim, and as he continues in obedience to the Torah, the Law of Moses, YHVH's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions spoken directly to Moses from the mouth of Elohim, He too, **IF** He continues to obey YHVH's Torah of Life **WILL** be continuously filled with the Spirit of YHVH.

So now we have established that Barnabas and Sha'ul were filled with the Spirit of YHVH and therefore in their surrendered state they are guided by the Spirit of YHVH as to where they are **TO GO** and what they are **TO DO**. What a wonderful state of mind to be in, and it is a state of mind that I believe we should all try to achieve in our daily lives, a state of complete surrender to our heavenly Father and His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions.

When it says that these Spirit filled believers preached the Word of Elohim in the synagogues, it is therefore obvious that they were ministering to our Jewish brothers and all other people that attended the synagogue.

Next we have the story of Bar Jesus and the deputy of the country Sergius Paulus. Paulus desired to hear the Word of Elohim from Barnabas and Paul, so he called them to himself. However this Bar Jesus did not want to lose favour with the deputy so he challenged the voracity of what Paul and Barnabas were saying.

Then we have an incident that happens, that can only come from the Spirit of Elohim. In other words, Paul, Shaul, **IS** a vessel of Elohim's power, and he is a vessel of YHVH, **BECAUSE** Paul **IS** in an obedient surrendered state to YHVH and therefore YHVH does what Paul asks of Him and performs the miracle that Paul had spoken over the sorcerer, and the sorcerer was blinded as per Paul's words. Again we have to understand that it **IS BECAUSE** Paul was obedient to YHVH that a miracle was performed by YHVH and since the deputy and all those that were with him witnessed this event they therefore believed in the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

That **IS** how we can become a light onto the nations; as believers we **MUST** be willing to lovingly surrender our hearts, minds, souls and strength to our heavenly Father as Paul did and in that surrendered state, YHVH will make our light shine onto the nations.

The Scriptures go on to tell us that they continued to minister in the area and then they came to Antioch in Pisidia where they went into the synagogue on Sabbath and sat down. These words are not just mere information for us, they are there to teach all of us that we too are to **KEEP THE SABBATH** as Messiah and His Disciples did, we are to congregate on that day, the seventh day of the week, the Day that YHVH has set apart and hallowed as one of His Feasts, **IF** we truly want to hear from YHVH. For it is only through obedience to His Word, His Torah of Life, that we will be able to hear His still small Voice.

Now in the synagogue Paul speaks to the men of Israel (the Jews of the day) and he says, you that fear YHVH give audience, in other words listen to what I have to say. Paul goes through the history of Israel from their time of bondage in Egypt to the time of David, an individual that YHVH called, a man after My own heart, who shall fulfil all My will. Next we are told that from David, YHVH raised Yeshua who **IS THE SAVIOUR** of the world, according to His promises from the beginning.

Now Paul makes a comment that is very important for us to listen to and understand; he says, men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham (the Jews of the day) and whoever among you that fears Elohim (that would be us), to you **IS** the Word of this salvation sent, however it was first sent to the religious leaders of the day **BUT** they chose **NOT** to receive it, they did **NOT know Elohim, they did NOT yada Him, they chose NOT to be intimate with Him,** nor did they listen to the voices of the prophets who preached His Word, His Torah of Life every Sabbath day in the Synagogues of Elohim. In other words they did **NOT** recognize that Messiah was the Living Word of the Father, His Living Torah, because they did **NOT** keep the True and Pure Torah of Moses, but instead they kept **the traditions of their fathers, their oral Torah, the oral Law.** Therefore since they **DID NOT KEEP** the Torah of YHVH, wherein is found **ALL** the prophecies of the Messiah's coming, they **MISSED THE DAY** of their visitation, they missed the beautiful picture painted in the Torah of Moses of the advent of Messiah, our heavenly Father's salvation plan that He has imbedded in His Word, His Torah of Life, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions. The Torah **IS** the place wherein are found **ALL** the prophecies of the coming Messiah, therefore as I said, **THEY MISSED** the time of their visitation.

Let us **NOT MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE**, but instead let us embrace every Word that proceeds from the mouth of YHVH and learn to be **DOERS** of His Life Saving Word, His Torah of Life.

Paul goes on to describe the wonderful sacrifice of Messiah and His miraculous resurrection and that through Him, through Messiah, the Living Word, the Living Torah **IS** preached unto **ALL** peoples, the forgiveness of sins.

Verse 39 is very interesting and will be used against those who willingly and lovingly choose to **KEEP** the Torah of Moses with a surrendered obedient and loving heart. *Verse 39* **And by him ALL that believe ARE JUSTIFIED from all things, from which you COULD NOT BE JUSTIFIED by the Law (Torah) of Moses.** From this verse we will get comments like, see the Law can't justify you, therefore we don't have to keep the law anymore, or you will hear words like Jesus did it for us because we can't do it. It is very true that the Law cannot justify us **IF** and when we try to **KEEP** the Law, the Torah of Moses by **OUR OWN STRENGTH**, because we will fail. However the Scripture teaches us that when we surrender our wills to our heavenly Father, He graciously fills us with His Holy Spirit who then **CAUSES** every surrendered loving heart to walk out YHVH's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life, and that is exactly what YHVH said in *Ezekiel 36:26-27* **A new heart also will I YHVH give you, and a new spirit will I YHVH put within you: and I YHVH will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I YHVH will put My Spirit within YOU, and CAUSE YOU TO WALK IN MY STATUTES, AND YE SHALL KEEP MY JUDGMENTS, AND DO THEM.** We must realize and understand that when we willingly choose to surrender our wills to YHVH in loving surrendered obedience to His Torah of Life, Scripture tells us that YHVH then fills us with His Holy Spirit who in turn **CAUSES** every surrendered heart to subject themselves to YHVH's Torah, His Law. Paul admonishes us in *Romans 8:3-8* that we are to walk in the Spirit of Elohim, *Verse 3* **For what the Law, the Torah COULD NOT DO, in that IT WAS WEAK THROUGH THE FLESH, IT IS NOT the Torah that IS WEAK, IT IS OUR FLESH THAT IS WEAK, Elohim sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4 That THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE LAW, the righteousness of the Torah might be fulfilled IN US, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.** Paul is saying that those who willingly surrender or subject their wills to our heavenly Father, the ones that willingly walk in obedience to His Torah of Life **ARE** the ones that are actually walking in the Spirit, **BECAUSE** when we choose to willingly surrender our wills to our heavenly Father, He **FILLS** us with His Spirit who then **CAUSES** us to walk out YHVH's teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life, which means that we are walking in the Spirit. *Verse 5* **For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; BUT they that are after the Spirit do mind the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded IS DEATH; BUT to be spiritually minded IS LIFE AND PEACE. 7 BECAUSE the carnal mind is enmity against Elohim: for IT IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE LAW, THE TORAH OF ELOHIM, neither indeed can be. 8 So then THEY THAT ARE IN THE FLESH CANNOT PLEASE ELOHIM.**

The process is very simple, when we willingly choose to surrender our wills to our heavenly Father, He fills us with His Holy Spirit who then **CAUSES** us to walk out His Torah of life, which means that we will walk as Messiah walked since He was Torah obedient **ALL** the days of His Life while He was here on earth. Furthermore we are told that when we surrender our will to the Living Torah, our Messiah we **HAVE THE MIND OF MESSIAH**. We are told in Scripture that Messiah obeyed the Law, the Torah of our heavenly Father perfectly and that He **DID NOTHING**, or **SAID NOTHING** unless the Father told Him to do so. He stated in *John 7:16* that His **DOCTRINE IS**

NOT HIS OWN BUT that He **FOLLOWS THE DOCTRINE OF THE ONE THAT SENT HIM**, And that my friends **IS THE DOCTRINE OF OUR HEAVENLY FATHER**. Proverbs 4:2 For I give you **GOOD DOCTRINE, FORSAKE YE NOT MY TORAH, MY LAW**.

The Scriptures are very clear, we must have and intimate relationship with our heavenly Father and His Messiah and in doing so, we are the recipients of the Father's Holy Spirit who then **CAUSES** every willing surrendered heart to walk out YHVH's Torah of Life, because it is the Father's wish that **NOT** even one person perish, **BUT** that **ALL** people would come to the knowledge of **TRUTH**; and the Scriptural definition of **TRUTH IS** Torah, *Psalm 119:142, John 17:17*

But because they did not follow the inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions of YHVH they missed Messiah and their unbelief was prophesied, *verse 40-41 Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets; 41 Behold, you despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I (Holy Spirit) work a work in your days, a work which you shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you.*

My friends, I tell you this every week and I know that I sound like a broken record, **BUT** it is only in the Torah, in the scroll of the book that we find the prophecies of the coming Messiah, and **IF** we distort the picture painted by YHVH's Words by adding our own words to it, or taking some words away from it, **WE WILL MISS WHAT IT IS TELLING US**, we will miss the picture painted by His wonderful words and we won't believe what YHVH's prophets are saying, **BECAUSE** we will be listening to the enemy, satan's doctrine, who wants to steal, kill and destroy us; therefore beware that you are **NOT** fooled by vain theologies, and the doctrines of men, **BUT** turn instead to the pure Word of YHVH, and believe what you find therein for they are Words that come directly from the mouth of Elohim, and they **ARE TRUTH**..

It is obvious to see that the Spirit of YHVH was moving over these people, for the gentiles wanted more of that kind of Torah teaching and *verse 43* tells us that many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul, and Paul persuaded them to continue in the grace of Elohim. Now that **IS A VERY TELLING STATEMENT** because the only way that anyone can **CONTINUE IN THE GRACE OF ELOHIM IS** by willingly and lovingly surrendering their wills, their whole heart to our heavenly Father and then by the power of His Holy Spirit willingly choose to walk in total loving obedience to His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life as Messiah did while He was here on earth.

Scripture tells us that the very next Sabbath almost the entire city came to hear Paul speak the Word of Elohim in the synagogue. You would think that the religious leaders would be very pleased that the synagogue was full, **BUT** the opposite was true; they were **JEALOUS**, because they imagined themselves losing control of their flock and that now the people would believe Paul, the Apostles and the disciples rather than these religious leaders.

Therefore we see that the religious leaders spoke out **against** what Paul was teaching, they contradicted everything he said and blasphemed. They were more interested in following and obeying the traditions of their fathers, the oral Torah than the True Living Torah, Messiah the incarnate Word of Elohim, the Living Torah. Paul goes on to say devastating words to these religious leaders and their followers, he says, seeing **YOU** put obedience to these words, this inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Torah of Moses, **AWAY FROM YOU**, and **judge yourselves UNWORTHY of everlasting life** (salvation) **THEREFORE WE TURN TO THE**

GENTILES WITH ELOHIM's INERRANT AND EVERLASTING TEACHING AND INSTRUCTIONS, HIS TORAH OF LIFE.

The conclusion is that the gentiles were happy that the Word of Elohim was going to be taught to them also, because Elohim had commanded Paul to do so. It says that many believed and the Word of Elohim was preached throughout the Land. Therefore the **JEALOUSY** of the religious leaders **REARED ITS UGLY HEAD** and Paul and Barnabas were expelled out of the city. Therefore we ALL of us need to be careful of jealousy in our own lives for **IT IS** our enemy and **NOT** our friend. We are **NOT** in any way to **ALLOW** any part of our lives to be tempted by jealousy of any kind, **FOR** it will indeed destroy us.

Acts 13 ends with a very encouraging statement. It says, the disciples were **FILLED** with Joy and with the **HOLY SPIRIT** of YHVH. You might say, how wonderful that the Apostles were filled with the Spirit of Elohim. But Please don't forget that this is **YOUR** heritage **ALSO, IF** you willingly choose to surrender your will, your heart, your strength to our heavenly Father. The Torah **IS SPIRIT FILLED** and therefore since it is indeed spirit filled that means that when people, such as yourselves either hear or read this teaching, and willingly choose to keep, follow, obey and **DO** the Torah of Moses with a loving surrendered obedient and contrite heart out of love for our heavenly Father; **THEN** that person **IS AUTOMATICALLY FILLED** with the Holy Spirit of Elohim, for His Word, **HIS LIVING TORAH IS SPIRIT**.

My advice to all of you hearing or reading this message **IS SURRENDER YOURSELVES TO** YHVH and **BE FILLED** with the Holy Spirit of YHVH, who will then **CAUSE** all surrendered hearts to obey **ALL** of His Commandments, His Torah of Life. Amein

Studying and keeping Torah together as a community.

Have a great Elohim blessed week and may Yahweh bless your every thought, and your every deed. Until we meet again, שְׁלוֹם עֲלֵיכֶם, Shalom Aleykem. Amein