



## Decade of Availability Spirit And Darkness

It is no surprise that as the Gospel goes forth and the mission of planting Churches is launched; Satan would do all he could to hinder the work of God. But the early believers and believers today—need to not fear—the Holy Spirit is on the move.

### A. Being Sent: The Cost of Service vv. 4-7

- ⇒ **Never share** your faith and you will *never look like a fool*.
- ⇒ **Never stand** for righteousness on a social issue and you will *never be rejected*.
- ⇒ **Never walk** out of a theater because a movie or play is offensive and you will *never be called a religious fanatic*.
- ⇒ **Never practice** consistent honesty in life and you will *never be accused of being narrow minded*.
- ⇒ **Never reach** out to the needy and you will *never be taken advantage of*.
- ⇒ **Never give** your heart and it will *never be broken*.
- ⇒ **Never go** to Cyprus and you will never be subjected to a dizzy, heart-convulsing confrontation with Satan.

### B. When Light Encounters Darkness vv. 8–12

#### 1. Resistance v. 8

Two ways that Satan works against the Gospel:

(1) When a move of God is coming, Satan will attempt to preempt that move by sending false teachers and teaching.

(2) When the move of God has come, Satan will attempt to 'counterfeit' that which is of the Lord.

#### 2. Prophetic indictment v. 9-10

It is the Holy Spirit who reveals to Paul what is in the heart of this false prophet. Elymas is filled with the trickery and deceit of Satan which he has used to confound Sergius Paulus who desires to know God.

(1) Never take your eyes off the enemy! We do not dwell on Satan nor give him any real recognition—he is a defeated foe—yet we must resist him 'head on.' *James 4:7; Eph 6:10-17*

#### 3. Prophetic curse v. 11a

The Holy Spirit reveals to Paul that '...the hand of the Lord...' was upon Elymas. But not to bless him. Instead his temporary 'blindness' was a sign of his 'spiritual blindness.' It is possible that God was giving him time to repent and turn to the Lord. This event reminds us of what are called 'imprecatory' prayers. David prayed several 'imprecatory' prayers against his enemies "Let death seize upon thee and let them go down quick into hell..." Ps 55:15. (See also Paul's quote of Ps 69 in Romans 11:7-11 where the ultimate goal is salvation.)

#### 4. The fulfillment v. 11b

"And immediately..." there was fulfillment. Interesting that the Apostle Paul had a similar experience in Acts 9 where the Holy Spirit struck him blind for a few days. In both cases an act of God took place for the benefit of fulfilling the purposes of God.

#### 5. The result v. 12

When the Satanic resistance was removed, Sergius Paulus believed the WORD of the Gospel! "...Astonished at the doctrine of the Lord."

### Acts 13:4-12 (KJV)

**4** So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.

**5** And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister.

**6** And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar-jesus:

**7** Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God.

**8** But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.

**9** Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him,

**10** And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?

**11** And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.

**12** Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.

***Are you willing to be led by the Holy Spirit into your own mission journey?***

