

# Paul

## Week 1: Daunting Task – Acts 13:4-12

**Weekly Summary:** For some people, the Gospel of Jesus will bring faith and life. For others, it will bring hardening and death. The same thing happened 2000 years ago when Paul preached the gospel on the island of Cyprus. It isn't up to us to cause one outcome or the other. That's God's job! Your simple job description is to preach and teach that Gospel. The results of your work lie in God's hands.



❖ **Acts 9:15** – “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel.”

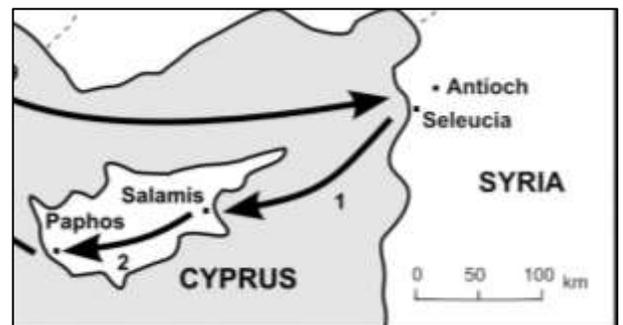
❖ **Acts 1:8b** – “You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

➤ Like Paul, God chooses you to be his \_\_\_\_\_.

❖ **Acts 13:4-12** – The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. <sup>5</sup> When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper.

<sup>6</sup> They traveled through the whole island until they came to Paphos. There they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus, <sup>7</sup> who was an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God. <sup>8</sup> But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith. <sup>9</sup> Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, <sup>10</sup> “You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? <sup>11</sup> Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind for a time, not even able to see the light of the sun.”

Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand. <sup>12</sup> When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord.



- **Key Idea:** The message belongs in \_\_\_\_\_ mouth. The outcome belongs in \_\_\_\_\_ hands.
  
- ❖ **Romans 10:14,17** – How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ... <sup>17</sup> Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.
  
- ❖ **Isaiah 55:10-11** – As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, <sup>11</sup> so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.
  
- ❖ **Verse 4** – “sent on their way by the Holy Spirit”  
**Verse 5** – “the word of God”  
**Verse 9** – “filled with the Holy Spirit”  
**Verse 11** – “the hand of the Lord”
  
- When you speak God's message, you speak with God's \_\_\_\_\_.

## Homework for the Upcoming Week

1. Read about Paul's earlier life in Acts 8:1-3; 9:1-2; 22:1-5; 26:4-11. Why was Paul one of the most unlikely candidates in history for Gospel ministry? What does this say about God's call to faith? God's call to service?
2. Take some time reading through Paul's missionary journeys in Acts 13-21. What were some of the intimidating situations Paul faced? How did he handle them? What good did God work through them?
3. What do you find most daunting about your God-given task to proclaim the gospel of Jesus? Make a list! Next, try to find Bible passages which help alleviate those fears.
4. Read Jeremiah 1:4-19. What did Jeremiah find intimidating? Who would Jeremiah face in giving God's message? What reassurances did God give Jeremiah that we can carry with us today?
5. What are some of the major elements that God's plan of salvation (for you and for the world) includes? How does understanding these well give us comfort, courage, and credibility as we tackle the task set before us?

## Next Steps

1. **Share today's message** with a friend or family member who you think might benefit from hearing it.
2. **Read Acts 14:8-20** to prepare for next week's message from our series: *Paul*.
3. Make a list of friends and family members who need to hear the good news of Jesus ... and share it with them!