

# QUANTOCK MINISTRIES

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*A Bible teaching and preaching ministry  
for the Christian community*

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## ACTS 13 v 4 – 12

This is the beginning of the first of Paul's great missionary journeys. He is accompanied by Barnabas and John Mark (see Acts 12 v 12).

1. The whole endeavour was under the direct control of the Holy Spirit.
  - a) The instigation of the Holy Spirit in Antioch, v2.
  - b) The clear leading of the Holy Spirit on the journey, v4.
  - c) The Holy Spirit's power in Paul's dealings with Elymas, v9.

There is a huge difference between living according to our own ideas, opinions, and motivations on one hand, and living in complete dependence on the leading and power of the Holy Spirit.

2. Their first task was to witness to the Jewish diaspora.
  - a) Here, throughout Cyprus, and on the rest of their journey, v5.
  - b) The sorcerer was also Jewish, v6.
  - c) Most of the opposition to the Gospel came from the Jewish people, eventually giving rise to Paul's letter to the churches he visited on this journey – Galatians.

Through the apostles God was still reaching out to the Jews. The full judgement on their rejection of Jesus was still in the future - AD70. But that is not the end of God's purposes for Israel, e.g., Romans 11, Matthew 23 v 39. Often the strongest opposition to our Christian faith comes from those closest to us.

3. The importance of using our minds in Christian matters, not just our emotions.
  - a) Sergius Paulus was "an intelligent man", v7.
  - b) He wanted to hear the word of God, v7.
  - c) He became a believer when he heard the teaching of the apostles and saw the evidence, v12.

Becoming and living as a Christian is an exercise of our minds, seeking the "mind of God" through hearing His Word; the right effect on our wills and emotions will come in response to the truth.

4. The reality of apostolic authority.
  - a) Paul's authority as an apostle was God-given, as he argued continually.
  - b) Paul understood the difference between his own mind and the mind of God, v9.
  - c) This exercise of God's judgement on Elymas was at God's behest, not Paul's.

Apostolic authority is the highest degree of gifting by the Holy Spirit. Many have claimed apostolic authority down through the history of the church, but for us as Bible-believing evangelicals, we come under the authority of the apostolic writers of the New Testament. We accept their authority as our God-given apostles and do not add to their teaching. Any other so-called apostolic authority only causes confusion and error.