

Not Quite a Nun: Discovering What God Would Have You Do
Acts 13:1-3 & 44-52

Deep in our hearts, we want to know what God would have us do and how to do it to be pleasing to Him. But how?

A good place to start is to look at the approach employed by Paul and the early church in Acts 13 as they sought to know God's purpose and plans for them.

The text says, "While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said..."

In Antioch they set aside time to be totally devoted to the Lord and His will for their lives.

It was during a time of worship and sacrificial devotion that God blessed them with the specific way they should fit into His work.

So, God gives His direction for our lives as we invest ourselves seriously in worship, especially with His gathered people.

If you want to discover God's plan and will for your life, worship with God's people has to be elevated from a brief tip of the cap toward heaven, to a season of serious, sacrificial acknowledgment of His holiness, glory, and absolute Lordship over your life.

Give it the best of your time, energy, and devotion and see if in the midst of it, God by His Spirit won't give you His best guidance for your life.

But God gives us the details of how to carry out His plans through His word.

Paul pursued God's stated will for him in a way that honored what was taught in Scripture. He went to the Jew first, then to the Gentiles.

Paul was acting theologically but in God's providence, it was effective.

The synagogue was the perfect "bridge" to launch a movement into the wider Gentile city.

Paul knew to apply what God told Joshua in Joshua 1:8 and what David proclaimed in Psalm 119:105. How many treasures have gone unclaimed in our lives because we fail to read and implement the instructions of God's word.

We can listen well and hear the voice of God best where He speaks. He speaks most clearly when we worship and when we give attention to His written word.