

# THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

## CHAPTER 15:36-41

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### TITLE:

**“WHEN GOD’S SERVANTS DISAGREE”**

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### THEME:

*Acts 1:8*

*“But you shall receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and “**you shall be witnesses to Me**” in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

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This week I was flying from Salt Lake City Utah to Spokane Washington  
And a group of businessmen were just having a grand ole’ time, - Gettin’ along so well...

*Lord, those guys sure do get along*

They’re not Related, They're not Family, They don't have to live together!

My Spiritual Family is so much Deeper than my earthly one

We’re Related... That’s why we don’t always get along very well

### **WHAT DO WE DO, WHEN GOD’S SERVANTS DISAGREE**

We’re not talking about Doctrine Disagreements; Christians do not disagree on doctrinal things...Christians are Christians because of their doctrinal unity...

We left off with a tremendous victory for all the believers in Antioch, Syria as the church was experiencing great unity between the gentile and Jewish Christians

There is a time when Separation is Right  
- Over Doctrinal Issues.

### **2 Thessalonians 3:14**

And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed.

## 2 John 1:7-11

For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. :8 Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward. :9 Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. :10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; :11 for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

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## In Acts 15

### We're talking about Personal Disagreement

No One is Exempt... In Fact, if you are going to be used of God inevitably... personal conflict will arise

I appreciate the reality & honesty of the Bible.

It reveals some of the most sinful situations (David & Bathsheba)

It reveals some of the most tender thoughts (psalms)

It reveals some of the most embarrassing moments (footin' peter)

## Verse 36

There is a gap of time between verse 35 & 36 of about 4 months (winter)

When in Rome, the sensation of knowing Paul was here  
And In Spain (east coast, Barcelona) The Gospel had Come

I will never see Russia the Same  
(as modern day apostles have gone there)

## Verse 36-37

\* *determined GRK 1011 bouleuo (bool-yoo'-o)*

*to deliberately advise, to be direct with  
to repeat again & again (present tense)*

Mark Had Panicked...

Acts 13:13

Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John, **departing** (walk out) from them, returned to Jerusalem.

### Mark's Personality

- he witnessed the arrest of Jesus in the garden and crucifixion.
- he was a Christian, he's not a non-believer... he loves the Lord
- he hadn't done much
- but he showed potential (maybe)

Mark Flunked out on the first journey....F-

## **That Cloud Hung Over Him**

Never give up on what God might want to do with you !!!  
no matter what any man says, any board, or mission ministry.

## Has someone Discouraged You?

"Unfortunately, We Miss the Tone"

### Barnabas' Personality;

- he was more passive in nature. A peacemaker at heart
- he was an optimist, always encouraging someone
- he was very gracious

Barnabas looked at people with "faith" asking "where will this guy be in a year"

We Know This about Barney;

**Acts 4:36**

**And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite**

Paul

*Looked at People and asked "I wonder what that Guy can do for the work of God?"*

Barnabas

*Looked at People and asked, I wonder what the work of God can do for him?*

## 1.) Do Christians Disagree?

*vv. 36-38*

**make no mistake about it...**

this argument between Paul and Barney is a real barnstormer

we know it just by the words used. In the Greek language it's strong words of disagreement!

\* **Insisted** GRK 515 **axioo** (ax-ee-o'-o)

to hold in question, to see suspect or unworthy.

\* **Departed** GRK 868 **aphistemi** (af-is'-tay-mee)

to remove, i.e. (actively) instigate to revolt; usually (reflexively) to desist, desert!

1 Timothy 4:1

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will (**aphistemi** (af-is'-tay-mee)) **depart** from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

## 2.) Why Do Christians Disagree ?

*vv. 38b*

we're human... That's the problem

1 Corinthians 1:21

...it pleased God through the **foolishness of the message** preached to save those who believe.

**As a Christian**

You may not like someone... but you're commanded to love them

Love is a Choice

Q;  
Would you have to have loved Paul?  
*(he probably would have driven up the wall)*

### Paul's Personality;

Paul didn't see the *landscape before him as a parking lot,*  
*He saw it as a Launching Pad for God's next mission.*

We're talking about a man here who prayed for us...

Ephesians 3:20

To God who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think,  
according to the power that works in us, :21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ  
Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

- he knew exactly where he wanted to go, full of passion  
he was a chosen vessel

Acts 9:15

But the Lord said "he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name  
before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.

- he was driven, most of us wouldn't have been able to put up with Paul.
- he was possessed with a burden to establish the church

2 Corinthians 11:2

For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one  
husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

**Paul was like a general in a war room.**

### **3.) Can Disagreement be Avoided?**

*vv. 39*

- \* **Contention** GRK 3948 *paroxusmos* (par-ox-oos-mos');  
incitement an anger dispute, provoking.

**Barney**

"Mark is going with us"

**Paul,**

"No!" "He's Not Going, Failed once... He'll fail again!"

**Barney**

"Yes He is going, "All he needs is encouragement along the way!"

**Paul**

"I said he's not going... not with me!"

**Barney**

"Then I'll take him" Barnabas threatened

### **Amos 3:3**

## **Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?**

This separation is based solely upon  
personal views.

**Paul** was against Mark, Barnabas was for Mark

Barnabas would work with anyone

**Paul** would only work with the committed servant of God

Can Disagreements be avoided?

**i don't think so**

(It happened to Paul & Barnabas)

How *we handle these things makes all the difference*

*Romans 12:9-21*

Romans 12:18

If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

Being in Christian Ministry doesn't guarantee smooth sailing  
The Armour Needs to be On at All Times to protect the unity

Ministry can be Costly

**So Sharp (deep - major hurt here)**

if you're going by ship..... we'll go by land  
if you're heading southwest.....we'll go northwest

Paul's journey was well over twice as long as Barnabas & Mark's

It's Interesting to note here;

That with the close of Chapter 15 we no longer hear again from Peter, Barnabas or Mark... As the Holy Spirit was to focus on the work of the gentiles as the gospel goes to Europe!

#### 4.) God Can Overrule a Disagreement ? *vv. 40-41*

It appears that the church sided with Paul & Silas

God was not in this separation,  
God desires to multiply His work, but never like this, not this way.

**God used the Division,**

Who was right, Who was Wrong ?

In Fact,

- It's my personal belief that both Barnabas and Paul were right in their evaluation of Mark...
- He was too inexperienced to go on such a long, pro-gentile mission.
- **but every man deserves a second chance.**

# It's hard to find fault

- A.) Paul was an Apostle with a focus on Pastoring
- B.) Barnabas was an Apostle with a focus on Discipleship
- A.) Paul was an overseer of the body Corporately
- B.) Barnabas was gifted at one on one ministry

It was Barnabas who took Paul in  
when nobody would

Being different with different callings is necessary  
Understanding those differences are not always easy.

## D.) What to do With a Disagreement ? v.41

He went through, “**strengthening**” the churches. The heart of Pastoral ministry is teaching...

### Encouraging, Building Up

Ephesians 4:11

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some {pastors/teachers} the Greek construction suggest that the Pastor & teacher refer to the twofold function of one individual.

**teachers are not pastors, but all pastors must be teachers**

### *His Epistles*

**(the writing and teaching of the epistles to the churches)**

1 Timothy 3:15

I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is **the church** (gathering) of the living God, **the pillar** (to going forth) and **ground (foundation)** of the truth.

A Fatal Mistake

don't stop serving Jesus

Many people when they get hurt just sit down and pout... & take it out on God for a wrong that a man has done against them...

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## Punishing Jesus isn't the answer

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- He hasn't done anything to you.. • He's grieved more about it than you are!.....

Why play into Satan's hand, giving him the victory that he's wanted

You'll either Fossilize or Evangelize

### Tall-Tale Signs of Fossilization

You'll leave your impression everywhere you go...

#1. pouting about it breeds (bitterness)

**Hebrews 12:12-15**

**Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, :13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed. :14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: :15 looking diligently lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;**

**Ephesians 5:1-4**

**Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. (HOW) :2 walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. :3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; :4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.**

If you 'Fossilize', You're sure to 'Fertilize'

1.) **SETTLE THE ACCOUNT: For Jesus Sake**

**Matthew 5:23**

"Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, :24 "leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

*Matthew 18:21*

*Then Peter said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" :22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.*

Rest in the Lord...

**1 John 3:20**

**For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart,  
and knows all things.**

Understand This...

#1

God Uses Imperfect tools

2 Corinthians 4:7

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

2 Corinthians 3:5

Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God,

#2

God is not done with me yet

1 Corinthians 12:5

There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.

I found a **little bit** of each of these guy's living in me !!!

At any given moment or situation... I could be anyone of these three men.

**GOD WON OUT IN THE END**

## HE'S CALLED THE REDEEMER.

- TWO TEAMS WERE FORMED.
- TWICE AS MUCH WORK WAS COMPLETED.
- THE SITUATION GALVANIZED MARK
- IT STRENGTHENED BARNABAS
- AND IT RESULTED IN PAUL BEING SOFTENED A LITTLE

### Encouraging News;

#1 John Mark was the author of Mark's (Peter's) gospel the first of the 4 written, and the most "action" packed.

#2 Even though John Mark deserted Paul on the first missionary journey, We find at the end of Paul's Life and Ministry a great invitation to come and minister.

2 Timothy 4:9-11

Be diligent to come to me quickly; :10 for Demas has **forsaken** me, having loved this present world, and has **deserted** for Thessalonica-- Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia. :11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.

**Remind them of God's Commitment to them...**

**He has Given us the ministry of Reconciliation...**

**I as a Christian and as a church we must be a body of reconcilers.**

**if we are, if I am to be "Jesus-like" in this bitter and self-centered, self-protecting world I must dedicate myself to reconciling others back to the Lord !!!**