**R873 Rumination for October 17, 2021**

The **T**heme: **The Spirit Called…**[berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)

The **T**ext: *The Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul…”* Acts 13:2a, NKJV

The **T**hots:

1. **The Spirit Called and Commissioned Barnabas and Saul. Acts 13:2, NKJV**
2. They were **S**eparated and **S**ingled out by the **S**pirit for **S**pecial **S**ervice. 13:2b, NKJV

*The Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them”*

1. They were in **A**ctive **S**ervice when **C**alled – ***A****s they ministered to the Lord* 13:2a
2. They were **A**mong leaders of the **C**hurch at **A**ntioch then – 13:1a

*There were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon …and Saul*

1. This Call was **A**ffirmed to the other **A**ppointed Servants of the Lord: 13:1a

*In the church…at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers…the Holy Spirit* ***S****aid*

1. These leaders **A**cknowledged the **C**all; then *fasted and prayed* over it to **C**onfirm it. 13:3a:

*Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them…*

1. The **S**ource of the Call was the **S**pirit – *the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me…* 13:2a
2. Not **S**elf-inspired (*I feel the need…”)* as if the Spirit cannot **A**chieve His **P**urposes Without my **A**id.
3. Not-**S**elf-sourced (*I have…; I can…)* as if He cannot **A**ccomplish without my **P**ersonal **A**ssistance.
4. But **S**elf-**S**urrender to *Be* and *Do* what He wants me to – *Separate to Me…for the work* 13:2b
5. **The Spirit Commended and Commissioned (*Sent Out*) Barnabas and Saul. Acts 13:3, 4**
6. The Church ***S****ent* them *Away* – Acts 13:3b
7. They were “***S****ent away*” by the **S**aints in Antioch.

*When they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they* ***sent*** *them away.* Acts 13:3b

1. Note: ***S****ent* is Gk. *apolyō*, from (*apo*) and (*luo*) = to **F**ree **F**ully } Strong

i.e. (literal) **R**elieve, **R**elease, (let) **D**epart, **D**ismiss, **D**ivorce…set at liberty. }

* 1. When the Church at Antioch *sent* Saul and Barnabas out,

they were **R**eleasing them from their home duties to a work appointed by the Holy Spirit outside.

* 1. They did not ***send*** them out as the Holy Spirit did (as in 13:4 below, see #2)

1. The Spirit ***S****ent* them *Out*. Acts 13:4

*So, being* ***sent out*** *by the Holy Spirit, they went* ***D****own…*

1. The Spirit’s **D**irectives: *sent* is Gk. *ekpempō* = sent forth; sent away from (*ek*) and (*pempo*)

= to **D**espatch: - send away (forth) Strong

1. Hence, it was the Spirit Who was the **A**uthority to **A**ppoint and *Send Out/****A****way*, Acts 13:3, 4

and the **D**uty of the Church to **D**espatch the chosen ones. So they **D**eparted!

1. Thus, the Holy Spirit was the **D**irector of all His servants’ “**D**epartures” and **D**uties

to *shut* or *open* **D**oors for them to go through in their service for Him. See #2b below

1. The Spirit’s **D**irections: Acts 13:6-7
2. The Spirit Closed **A**ll Doors **P**rohibited (*Forbidden*) by Him:

*…they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them.*

1. The Spirit Opened **A**nother Door **P**ermitted by Him Acts 16:9-10

*And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.*

* **O**ne Important Thing to note:

In his **M**inistry, though Paul was very busy with his **M**ission, he stayed back in Troas five days

just to keep the Lord’s Supper with the saints in the local church: Acts 20:7

*Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread,*

*Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them.*

May all Believers seek to be present to Remember the Lord this day, the first day of the week

*Yes, Christ’s command continues To all who serve His Name*

*To go and make disciples, That all would sing His fame.*

*And gathered at one table His holy church shall see*

*Our Master is still calling: Do This; Remember Me!* Keith H. McIlwain

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 873**

1. Yesterday, **October 16**, marked the **Silver Anniversary** of the Spirit’s Call and the Church’s Commendation for me to go out into public teaching ministry for Him in **1996** in Penang, Malaysia, Singapore and elsewhere. Attached is a copy of the original letter of Commendation issued by my home assembly, Burmah Road Gospel Hall, Penang. [See Appendix 1]

On this day, I would like to invite my fellow prayer partners to join me in bringing our sacrifice of thanksgiving unto the Lord for His keeping of His promises to me

(*For He is* *Faithful that promised*, Heb. 10:23)

as the psalmist did in Psa. 116:12, 17 –

*What shall I render unto the LORD for all His benefits toward me?*

*I will offer to Thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving,*

*and will call upon the name of the LORD.*

Indeed, at this Silver Anniversary, I hear again the voice of the Lord to His commissioned 70 disciples to go out to preach and teach (Luke 10:3-4)

*Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves.*

*Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes…*

and on their return to hear Him challenging them (Luke 22:35) –

*And He said unto them, When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes,*

***lacked ye any thing?*** *And they said,* ***Nothing****.*

That was their unequivocal answer **and mine too!**

Truly, I can testify to the same even as I ask you to join me to offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and to call upon the Name of the Lord, for He has been All-**P**resent, All-**P**owerful,

All-**P**roviding, and All-**P**rotecting over me all these **25 years** in His Majesty’s Service.

The Lord, Who is King and Sovereign is **G**reat, **G**ood and **G**racious and He has appointed me in His Majesty’s Service. **G**lorious indeed is He!

***To Him be all the Thanksgiving, Praise and Glory. Amen.***

[For a history of my **C**all, **C**ommission, **C**ommendation, **C**ommitment and **C**ontributions in His Majesty’s Service, please refer to my website [www.berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com) at the following URL - <http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/webcontent/Oct162021-UKC-BRGH-My-Call-Commission-and-Commendation-Silver_Anniv.doc>

Can you join me to praise His worthy Name this day? **REFLECT**

1. Does the local Church, after having **sent away** (*released)* a servant of the Lord to the Spirit’s Charge, have the authority to direct him/her what to do and where to serve, or the responsibility to support him/her?

Consider that after the local church had sent (*released*) Saul and Barnabas away, they were ever under the sole direction and directives of the Spirit. Their connection with Antioch was only in their report of their work at the end of their first missionary journey. Acts 14:26-27***-***

*And thence sailed to Antioch, from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled. And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.*

Later, Paul wrote to the saints at Philippi, Philippians 4:15-19 –

*Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God. But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

What does the above have to say vis-a-vis the direction and support of servants of the Lord who go out to serve in His Name? What is your role and responsibility towards them? **REFLECT**

**Points To Ponder:** *The Lord may not give us a* ***S****urplus, but be assured He always* ***S****uffices!*

**Appendix 1:**

20th October, 1996

**COMMENDATION LETTER TO**

Assemblies in Malaysia and Singapore.

Dear Brethren,

**COMMENDATION OF *MR. UNG KIM CHENG***

**For Full-time Bible Teaching Ministry**

Warmest greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We take great pleasure in commending our brother Ung Kim Cheng for a full-time Bible teaching ministry in the Lord’s Service.

0ur brother is an elder of Burmah Road Gospel Hall. He is also a gifted and experienced Bible teacher. Since his retirement from the teaching profession he has felt called of the Lord to devote his time and resources to serve in the area of the Ministry of God’s Word. Recognising this, we are pleased to commend him to the Assemblies of the Lord’s people in Malaysia and Singapore for this ministry and trust that it will bring much blessing to many.

0ur brother also has a special burden to help out in the Teaching Ministry especially among smaller Assemblies that may need his help. He can be contacted at:

Address: BETHEL, 31 Medan Lim Cheng Teik, 10250 Penang.

Email: [kcung@pc.jaring.my](mailto:kcung@pc.jaring.my)

It is our earnest prayer and desire that the Lord will grant our brother great joy in fulfilling the vision of his ministry and richly bless it.

Yours in the Lord’s service,

Tan Tiong Leng, Elder Thomas Chin, Elder

NOTE: Mr. Ung’s specialised ministry lies in the following areas: -

1. CHURCH Truths: Principles and Practices of Assembly Gathering.

2. Bible ESCHATOLOGY and studies on Daniel and Revelation

3. Old Testament TYPOLOGY: the Tabernacle and its Rituals; Levitical studies, etc.

4. New Testament Topics and Truths from Old Testament Pictures and Perspective.

5. Among other studies.