

ADVENTURING WITH GOD: Following in the Apostles' Footsteps

Reaching Our World

Acts 1:1–11



LET'S BEGIN HERE

Obedience to God requires openness to change. Webster's defines the verb *change* as "to make different in some particular."¹ Change is one of life's rare certainties! Our habits change. Our living situations change. Our careers change. Our families change. Our goals change. Our lifestyles change. And when any of these circumstances change, we change! We aren't exactly the same people we were last week, and we won't be exactly the same next week, either. With each day and each experience, we grow to become different people.



LET'S DIG DEEPER

1. Stepping Out in Faith (Acts 13:1–4)

Saul, Barnabas, Simeon, Lucius, and Manaen were a band of brothers in the ministry. As church leaders, they had the responsibility of guarding, instructing, and shepherding their flocks. They enjoyed close fellowship. But that wasn't all. They toiled in the trenches. They were defamed and persecuted—together.

In the midst of this fellowship, the Holy Spirit prompted the band of brothers to set apart Saul and Barnabas to the work God had called them to. They heard, they responded, and without hesitation, they obeyed.



Quotable

*The deep work of
the Holy Spirit
in our lives is
what gives us
the gumption to
stay at it.*

—Charles R. Swindoll



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2. Undergoing Transformation

Note that we're not transformed so we can follow any path we want. We're transformed so that we may follow the path that God has established for us—that of His good, acceptable, and perfect will. Not only do we *undergo* a radical change when we establish a relationship with Christ, we also should *cause* a radical change.



LET'S LIVE IT

These few verses in Acts 13 present four applications for navigating change.

First, *do not remove any possibility*. Do not put any boundaries around what God may plan for you.

Second, *do not allow activity to dull your sensitivity*. It's easy to get so engaged in doing God's work that you become thick and preoccupied.

Third, *let God be God*. He's the Potter, we're the clay. Keep it like that. You're the one who molds to Him, not the other way around.



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Fourth, *be ready to say yes*. That may mean saying yes to leaving *or* saying yes to staying. Some of us are called to stay put. Don't wait for all the details to be ironed out. Don't fear the unknown. Don't rethink things when hardships occur. Don't try to get all the answers ahead of time. Pray it out.

How has God used unexpected events or circumstances in the past to help you grow in your faith?

ENDNOTE

1. Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th ed. (Springfield, Mass.: Merriam-Webster, 2007), "change."



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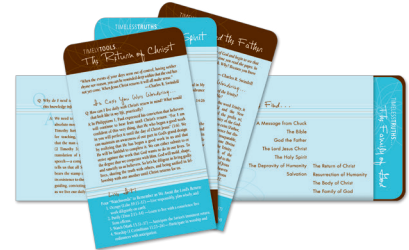
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