THE SPIRIT OF ELYMAS

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Coordinator

Topic:

THE SPIRIT OF ELYMAS

Bible Text: Acts 13:4-12

Teacher; Oluwatobi S. Adwwuyi

Prayer

Heavenly Father, Our blessed Savior, we thank You for a time like this, we adore Your name, we worship You, we pray Lord, that as we study at Your feet today, help us to understand Your Word in Jesus name. Amen

Study

Someone should help us with that part of the scriptures, as we all read it carefully.

Acts 13:1-12 KJV So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus**. [5]** And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister**. [6]** And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Barjesus: **[7]** Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. **[8]** But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. **[9]** Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, **[10]** And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? **[11]** And now,

behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand**. [12]** Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.

Thanks brethren, let's all read these verses carefully. In the previous verses of the scriptures, it is said that The Holy Spirit said that Barnabas and Saul should be separated for the work they were called to do, and after they had fasted and prayed, they were sent on the mission. **Acts 13:4 KJV** So they, being SENT FORTH by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus. So, being sent out by The Holy Spirit, they did not embark on this special mission because they wanted to be popular, neither did they embark on it because of money, it was not human that sent them out too but The Holy Spirit who is God Himself. Those who go on special missions for The Lord needs to be led by The Holy Spirit because that is when they would have His backup. They continued on their mission, going down to Seleucia and from there, they sailed to Cyprus, preaching the gospel of The Lord Jesus Christ. When they got to Salamis, they preached The Word of God in the synagogues of the Jews**. Acts 13:5 KJV** And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister. Reason might be because the synagogue already had regular attendants and there were alot of people who were still practicing the Jewish religion, those who are yet to know about the work of salvation through Christ.

So The Word of God had to reach them, it could also be in a bid to making them realize that there is a need to move with the new plan of

God in fellowship and service to Him other than the way they have been familiar with. So they preached The Word of God to them and not the words of men rooted in men's traditions. It is the Word of Life that brings emancipation, it is such that is Spirit and life. **John 6:63 KJV** it is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. And John was readily available to assist them since they all got employed in the same work**. Acts 13:6 KJV** And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar-jesus: After preaching at Salamis they passed through the Island Paphos, since The Word of God must reach everyone in the world and must prevail, they had to pass through any available route surmounting every circumstances, no matter how difficult it might be, sailing on water could be dangerous and weather change could be challenging but they continued since it's a work they had committed themselves to. Now at Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar-Jesus.

It is of no surprise to find such as Bar-Jesus in that region or any region in the world, for the world is under the rulership of the devil. His children are established everywhere, it is the duty of the children of God to take light to such areas. Bar-Jesus, though was a Jew, did not so much have regards for the Jewish religion, but was a sorcerer, a wizard to say; and a false prophet, it is of a pure fact that false prophets who would give false prophecies to the astonishment of their audience must practice sorcery, so Bar-Jesus who is also known as Elymas was. It is of no surprise that the name Elymas means sorcerer and for him to be identified as a false prophet, he must have presented himself like a true prophet, one who was sent by God. Also was the case with Simon the sorcerer. Those who are of darkness

would often present themselves as agents of light as the devil transforms into an angel of light to deceive. Elymas had been with the proconsul, that is, deputy or governor as it is usual of those in authority to have spiritual people around them, who are to make constant prayers to God for the state and them too. Elymas had worked his way through to the top to gain the approval of the proconsul, though he knew he was a false prophet. It is then the duty of everyone to identify false Christians around them, for they will not mind to go any length to see themselves fixed in the plan of God for one's life in other to thwart it.

Acts 13:7 KJV Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. The proconsul whose name was Sergius Paulus is described as an intelligent man. Despite his intelligence, he could not decipher between a true prophet and a false one. This tells us that worldly wisdom has limits, though it is good but there is how far it can help; by his love in seeking knowledge, he sent for Saul and Barnabas, that he might hear what he has to say but, since the children of darkness are able to recognise the children of God even at a glimpse, Elymas sought to withstand them**. Acts 13:8 KJV But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.** The actions of Elymas was majorly so that the governor would not come to the faith, this is a good way to recognise those who are not of the fold of the Lord Jesus Christ, they themselves are not in the faith and will stop others from accepting such grace and salvation. **Acts 13:9 KJV** Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him. Saul whose name is also Paul, he was called Paul just to distinguish him. Looked intently at him the way he

came to look at the man at Lystra who was impotent in his feet, a cripple from birth and had never walked, he perceived that he had faith to be healed which brought the healing of that man.

Acts 14:8-10 KJV And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked: [9] The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, [10] Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked. That must have been the same way he looked at Elymas **Acts 13:10 KJV** And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? Then Paul said **"O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness"**. Paul had never met this man and he said all these because The Holy Spirit knows all things. The things mentioned by Paul were all accurate with the description given earlier on concerning Elymas, some of the ways to know the children of light from the children of darkness are clearly stated in the characters possessed by him.

1. **A man full of all deceit and all fraud:** Deceit is the act of causing someone to accept the true or validate what is false or invalid. It is the act or practice of deceiving. Since Elymas was a false prophet, then he had been causing people to accept him as a true prophet validated by God, hence, has been deceitful and he must also have been deceitful in his ways to gain material things; coupled with frauds. Fraudulent activities usually work hand in hand with deceit. Since fraud is the intentional perversion of truth in order to induce another to part with something of value or to surrender a legal rights and Elymas is into such, it means that he must have gathered wealth by fraud and deceit,

of a truth, there are many Elymas in the world who are so much rooted in deceit, and fraud, they perverse the truth and unfortunately, they have already crept in into the church just like how Elymas found his way to the top to becoming the right-hand man of Sergius Paulus. The aim of these people is to bring damnable heresies into the fold of Christ, deceiving those who are weak and using fraudulent means to make people part way with their money. it is worrisome that these people support false prophets who are working after the order of Elymas with their money and would never support the true ministers of God with their money; just because those false ones has astonished them with lies.

2**. A son of the devil:** From the previous words said by Paul, it is an established fact that Elymas was not a child of God but of the devil, so he said it categorically. The Lord Jesus Christ mentioned a similar thing in **Matthew 13:38 KJV** The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one ; in the parable of the wheat and tares, he pointed out that there are children of the devil who Satan hath begotten. **John 8:44 KJV** **Y**e are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. So, it is clear that Elymas was the son of the devil, for he was filled with the ways and characters of the devil, as a child should look like his father. No true child of God will stand against the truth of God's Word, but Elymas did because he was not of God, there are many today who claim to be Christians, but, this same spirit which worked in Elymas is working in them, they resist the truth so much. They would not want to do it and would not want others to. By their fruits, you shall know

them, they are children of the devil and must be evicted from the church once they are found out, so the Lord said, **"Let the wheat and the tares grow together**", that is, the children of God and the children of the world should live together in the same world. But the church has the right to expel the children of the devil from it because the church should not be a gathering of the children of God and the children of the devil, as the children of the devil will pollute the children of God with their ways and also send The Holy Spirit out of the church. We must therefore be watchful in prayers to know those who are agents of darkness in the church for necessary actions to be taken so that they will not take over the Church.

3. **An enemy of all righteousness**: Apostle Paul mentioned a cogent character of Elymas saying he is an enemy of righteousness. It's painful today that many so-called Christians and leaders are enemies of righteousness. And those who are enemies of righteousness are in sharp opposition with God, because righteousness has to do with the equity of character or acts

of those who are in Christ. Although, Elymas claimed to be a prophet of God, but his character and ways of life do not agree with his claim, in the same way, we must watch out for the patterns of living of those who are ministers around us to see their true identity . When talking about righteousness, we are talking about acting in accordance with divine or moral laws, it talks about one standing by what is morally right or justifiable, it is something that comes from the heart. Elymas kicked against all the things that are morally right, kicked against divine laws, and was living lawlessly, it is clear that many are like him today, they are not guided by divine laws or principles, they claim the grace of God has abolished divine laws of order, so they live

in unrighteousness, then they become enemies of righteousness themselves. A pure truth is that, those that are enemies to the doctrines of Christ are enemies to all righteousness, for it is in it all righteousness is summed up and fulfilled. Then, Apostle Paul made his offence known to him. He is perverting the ways of The Lord. The question is "Will you stop perverting the right ways of The Lord?" It is the duties of all those who live in the order of Elymas to employ themselves in such evil work of making the right ways of The Lord crooked. We must realise that the ways of The Lord are right and perfect, there is no mistake whatsoever in them. Those who are in Christ would put on His personality, and would walk in such right ways. Elymas would not walk in such a way that is as rewarding as this and would not let others do so, for he withstood Paul and Barnabas in order to make the right ways look wrong, which is very wrong to do. In the same way there are those who are specialists in doing such, they will make the truth look like false, thereby, turning the hearts of men away from the truth, those who do such need to stop it, for it incurs the wrath of God on such people. May The Lord purge His church from every Elymas at work in her in Jesus Christ name.

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