

HEARING GOD TOGETHER

The great adventure...listening to the Holy Spirit

Listening together

- Guidance at critical crossroads

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty)...So they nominated two men: Joseph...and Matthias. Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen." Acts 1:15,23,24

- Waiting

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Acts 2:1

- Lifestyle of the new Church

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe...They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need...praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:42,43,45,47

- Facing opposition

On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God...Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Acts 4:23,24,29

- We are in Your sovereign hand
- Give us great boldness
- God, stretch out Your hand with healing power

- Overwhelmed

They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. So the word of God spread... Acts 6:6-7

Listening together (cont.)

- Persecution

So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. Acts 12:5

- Discovering God's call

*While they were worshiping the Lord...the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and **sent them off**. The two of them, **sent on their way by the Holy Spirit**... Acts 13:2-4*

- Dealing with major disagreements

*This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question. "...we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God...It seemed **good to the Holy Spirit and to us** not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements..." The people read it and were glad for its encouraging message. Acts 15:2,19,28,31*

When and how do you "listen together?"

Listening together...healing

- Faith: showing up with a contrite heart

Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray...Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord...If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed... James 5:13-16

- Anoint and pray: faith

...You should call for the elders...pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well... James 5:14-15

- The mystery of the miraculous: faith and faith

...The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. James 5:16