

What Revival Looks Like  
How Revival Acts  
Acts 15:22-29



**FIRED UP**



Acts 15:22 Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; *namely*, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren:

23 And they wrote *letters* by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren *send* greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia:

24 Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, *Ye must* be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no *such* commandment:

25 It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,



26 Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

27 We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell *you* the same things by mouth.

28 For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;

29 That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.



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### (1) The Fitly Chosen Leaders, 15:22

Acts 15:22 Then pleased it the apostles and elders, **with the whole church**, to send chosen men of their own company **to Antioch** with Paul and Barnabas; *namely*, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren:

Original Word: ὅλος

Transliteration: holos

Definition: all, the whole, entire, complete.

*hólos* (a primitive adjective and the root of the English term "whole") – properly, *wholly*, where *all* the parts are present and working as a *whole* – i.e. as the total, which is greater than the mere sum of the parts. This factor is especially significant in metaphorical contexts or those focusing on the spiritual plane.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/3650.htm>



Note the order of listing those involved with the decision:

- Apostles
- Elders
- The Whole Church

2 Cor. 1:19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, *even* by me and **Silvanus** and Timotheus, was not yea and nay, but in him was yea.

1 Thess. 1:1 Paul, and **Silvanus**, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians *which is* in God the Father and *in* the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.



2 Thess. 1:1 Paul, and **Silvanus**, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

1 Pet. 5:12 By **Silvanus**, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand.

Note the process the council followed in resolving this conflict.

- First, the problem was clearly stated: Each side was presented in a debate.
- Second, those who were acquainted with them presented the facts.
- Third, a person who was trusted for his objectivity and wisdom gave the counsel.
- Fourth, unanimity was sought in the decision.
- Fifth, the attitude of preserving the unity of the Spirit remained utmost on the council's mind.



## (2) The First Church Letter, 15:23-29

### (a) A Word of Greeting, 15:23

Acts 15:23 And they wrote *letters* by them after this manner; The **apostles** and **elders** and **brethren** *send* greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in **Antioch** and **Syria** and **Cilicia**:





### New International Version

With them they sent the following letter: The apostles and elders, your brothers, To the Gentile believers in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia: Greetings.

### New American Standard Bible

and they sent this letter by them, "The apostles and the brethren who are elders, to the brethren in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia who are from the Gentiles, greetings.

### Holman Christian Standard Bible

They wrote this letter to be delivered by them: From the apostles and the elders, your brothers, To the brothers among the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: Greetings.

### King James Bible

And they wrote *letters* by them after this manner; The apostles and elders **and** brethren *send* greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia:

<http://biblehub.com/acts/15-23.htm>



(b) A Word of Guidance, 15:24-27

i. As to Those Who Were  
Not Sent, 15:24

Acts 15:24 Forasmuch as we have heard, that **certain which went out from us have troubled you** with words, **subverting your souls**, saying, *Ye must* be circumcised, and keep the law: **to whom we gave no *such* commandment:**

Original Word: ταρασσω

Transliteration: tarassó

Definition: I disturb, agitate, stir up, trouble.

*tarássō* – properly, put in *motion* (to agitate back-and-forth, shake to-and-fro); (figuratively) to set in motion what *needs to remain still* (at ease); to "trouble" ("agitate"), causing inner perplexity (emotional agitation) from getting *too stirred up inside* ("upset").

<http://biblehub.com/greek/5015.htm>



Gal. 1:7 Which is not another; but there be some that **trouble** you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

Gal. 5:10 I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that **troubleth** you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be.

Original Word: ἀνασκευάζω

Transliteration: anaskeuazó

Definition: I pervert, **subvert**, dismantle, unsettle, overthrow, destroy.

*anaskeuázō* (from *aná*, "up," which intensifies *skeúos*, "a vessel for carrying") – properly, "pack up, to carry away or remove" (J. Thayer), i.e. **move something out of its place; re-arrange to confuse (unsettle); "mix up" to subvert (destroy by unsettling).**

*anaskeuázō* ("subversively rearranging"), **used only in Acts 15:24**, refers to people with *false (scrambled) theology* trying to "re-arrange" the theology of others!

<http://biblehub.com/greek/384.htm>



Rom. 14:13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but **judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in *his* brother's way.**

ii. As to Those Who Were Now Sent, 15:25-27

- A Word of Endorsement for Barnabas and Saul, 15:25-26

Acts 15:25 It seemed good unto us, **being assembled with one accord**, to send **chosen men** unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,  
26 **Men that have hazarded their lives** for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Rom. 15:5 Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:  
6 That ye may with **one mind** *and* one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Original Word: παραδίδωμι

Transliteration: paradidómi

Definition: I hand over, pledge, hand down, deliver, commit, commend, betray, abandon (hazard)

*paradídōmi* (from *pará*, "from close-beside" and *dídōmi*, "give") – properly, to give (turn) over; "hand over from," i.e. to deliver over with a sense of close (personal) involvement.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/3860.htm>

hazard

**2.** Danger; peril; risk. He encountered the enemy at the *hazard* of his reputation and life.

<http://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/hazard>



- A Word of Endorsement for Barsabas and Silas, 15:27

Acts 15:27 We have sent **therefore** Judas and Silas, who shall also tell *you* the same things by mouth.

- “...therefore...” refers to the testimony of respect earned by men who were genuine servants of the most high God.
- The characteristics of godly servants are not their educational credentials, but their boldness “...**for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.**”

Prov. 28:1 The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but **the righteous are bold as a lion.**



(c) A Word of Government,  
15:28-29

i. A Note of Confidence,  
15:28

Acts 15:28 For it **seemed good to the Holy Ghost**, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;

Zech. 4:6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This *is* the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, **Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.**



ii. A Note of Caution,  
15:29

Acts 15:29 That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which **if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well.** Fare ye well.

1 Jn. 5:21 Little children, **keep yourselves from idols.** Amen.

Jude 1:21 **Keep yourselves in the love of God,** looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.



## Conclusion

Gal. 5:7 Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

8 This persuasion *cometh* not of him that calleth you.

9 A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

10 I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be.



Eph. 3:16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, **to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;**

17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, **being rooted and grounded in love,**

18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

19 And **to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.**

20 Now unto **him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,**

21 Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus **throughout all ages,** world without end. Amen.