

## Acts 16:6-8: How to Discern When You Encounter Open and Closed Doors

**Opening Statement:** We Must Train Ourselves to be Aware of the Holy Spirit when it comes to Important Decisions. Important Decisions are defined as those that will have an Impact on Your Life.

Why is being Sensitive to the Holy Spirit Important? It trains you to seek and hear Divine Guidance. The Holy Spirit also allows you to Know God on a more intrinsic level. To develop a relationship where You can sense God's Presence.

- The Holy Spirit Prepares someone to Receive Jesus
- The Holy Spirit Guides and Sustains the Follower of Christ
- Many People Know about God; the Holy Spirit Allows You to Know God
- The Holy Spirit is the Pathway to Receiving God's Vision, NOT your own.

### 1. Signs of a closed door

6 And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia.

7 And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.

**a. How did the Holy Spirit Prevent Paul, Silas, and Timothy from going to Asia and Bithynia?** We don't know Exactly, but we can speculate.

**b. No Peace.**

- Tossing and Turning About the Decision
- No Sleep

**c. Red Flags**

- Trying to force a relationship that just doesn't click
- Someone wants you to make an impulsive decision.
- Character Flaws: Talking bad about others. Mean-Spirited.

**d. Blocked Opportunities**

- Desire to be a Missionary: Can't Get Visa / Passport Expires
- Someone of importance related to a job does not connect with you
- The One You want a Relationship with is Now Going Out with Someone Else

**e. Not Biblically Correct**

- Unequally Yoked Relationship
- A Line of Work that Compromises Your Faith, but makes money
- Unforgiveness in Your Heart

## 2. Signs of an Open door

8 So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. 9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

10 And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

### a. Peace that Proceeds Your Decision

- Paul: A Group Agreement to Pursue Paul's Vision
- The Peace of Mind to Quit Your Job and Pursue the Calling God has Placed on Your Heart

### b. Green Flags

- You Get Emotional or Financial Support from Your Spiritual Tribe
- The Pathway is Opened Up with the Least Resistance
- Everything Seems to Line Up

### c. Opportunity Knocks

- An Opportunity Presents itself that lines up with your God-Given Vision
- The Opportunity becomes more of a Viable Reality

### d. The Decision lines up with Scripture

- It is Biblical and Lines Up with your Holy Spirit Led Conscience
- This Creates the best Opportunity for Your Personal Fulfillment

## 3. Keys to Gods Best for You.

- Trust the Spirit's Leading
- Be Willing to Wait and Not Act
- Know the Lord wants what's Best for you.

## Youth Questions

1. Have You ever Made a Bad Decision and Regretted It? If you are comfortable, share. It doesn't have to be serious; it could be funny and random.
2. Have You Ever Sensed the Holy Spirit helping you make decisions in Your Life?

### 4. Signs of a closed door: Read Acts 16:6-7

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7 And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.

- a. Do You see in this Passage where the Holy Spirit Closed doors? List them.
- b. In what ways can the Holy Spirit Close Doors in Your Life? See the church notes (Question 1) if you need some categories.
- c. Have you ever felt the Holy Spirit Close a Door?

### 5. Signs of an Open door

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- a. What Method did the Holy Spirit Use to Open a Door for these young men to go to Macedonia? Explain what Happened.
- b. In what ways can you sense the Holy Spirit is opening a door to make an important decision?
- c. What are Some Important Decisions You will have to make in the Near Future?