

WALK THROUGH OPEN DOORS
SENT SERIES [BEING ON MISSION EVERY DAY], PART 1

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. **Acts 1:8¹**

BIG IDEA: CHOICES BECOME EASIER WHEN YOU RECOGNIZE THAT GOD HELPS OPEN THE DOORS HE WANTS YOU TO WALK THROUGH.

⁶ And they [Paul, Silas, Timothy, and perhaps Luke]² 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. 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. **Acts 16:6-10**

PERSONAL APPLICATION: WE DON'T KNOW IF THEY WERE WORSHIPPING, PRAYING, AND FASTING FOR THIS REASON OR IF THE WORSHIP, PRAYER AND FASTING ARE WHAT MOVED THE HOLY SPIRIT TO SEND THEM OUT. BUT REGARDLESS, ONE TAKE-AWAY FOR US SHOULD BE THAT WHEN WE WORSHIP, FAST, AND PRAY GOD OPENS DOORS. ESPECIALLY WHEN WE PUT ALL THREE TOGETHER FOR A SEASON.

PERSONAL APPLICATION: THIS REALLY IS EVERYDAY PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY. FIRST, DON'T DO WHAT YOU KNOW YOU SHOULDN'T DO. SECOND, WHEN YOU HAVE MULTIPLE OPTIONS PICK THE ONE YOU SENSE IS GOD AND PLAN ON GOING THAT WAY UNLESS GOD DIRECTS YOU OTHERWISE.

¹³ And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. ¹⁴ One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a

¹ All scripture references are from the ESV Bible unless otherwise stated.

² Comments in [] square brackets are added for clarity and are not in the biblical text.

worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵ And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us. **Acts 16:13-15**

PERSONAL APPLICATION: GOD PUTS US IN PLACES AND WITH PEOPLE HE IS ALREADY WORKING IN, SO STAY ALERT TO OPPORTUNITIES

"...in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." **Genesis 12:3**

¹⁶ As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." ¹⁸ And this she kept doing for many days. **Paul, having become greatly annoyed**, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. **Acts 16:16-18**

¹⁹ But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers. ²⁰ And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, "These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city. ²¹ They advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practice." ²² The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. ²³ And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. ²⁴ Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. **Acts 16:19-24**

PERSONAL APPLICATION: EXPECT OPPOSITION WHEN YOU ARE IN THE WILL OF GOD AND HAVE CONFIDENCE GOD IS WITH YOU.

¹² Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. **I Peter 4:2-13 (NIV)**
²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, ²⁶ and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. **Acts 16:25-26**

²⁷ When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." ²⁹ And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³² And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³ And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. ³⁴ Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God. **Acts 16:27-34**

PERSONAL APPLICATION: GOD WORKS WITH PEOPLE WHO WORK WITH HIM

CLOSING CHALLENGE

- Think about a person(s) in your life God may already be working in.
- Write down their name on a card.
- Pray for their salvation/revival and for an opportunity to bring them to church with us... Easter is coming up in April.