

When you don't get what
you want, God has
something better in mind.

“Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. ⁷ After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit^a did not permit them.” Acts 16:6-7

*Led by the Spirit

- “Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. ⁷ After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit^[a] did not permit them. ⁸ So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. ⁹ And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” ¹⁰ Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them. Therefore, sailing from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and the next *day* came to Neapolis, ¹² and from there to Philippi, which is the foremost city of that part of Macedonia, a colony. And we were staying in that city for some days.” Acts 16:6-12

*Work in the Spirit

- The beginning of Paul's second missionary journey (15:36-18:22)
- Paul wanted to visit "our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, *and see* how they are doing..... And he went through Syria and Cilicia, **strengthening the churches.**" Acts 15:36,41
- They ministered in Derbe and Lystra (16:1) "**So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily.**" 16:5
- So far, so good. They are doing what they wanted to do, God helping them!

*Prevented by the Spirit

- Paul and his team wanted to go to Asia Minor – to Ephesus
- “Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, **they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.** ⁷ After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, **but the Spirit did not permit them.** ⁸ So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas.”
16:6-8
- Holy Spirit is our Guide
- It will do us tremendous good if we obey Him- allow Him to lead us
- Be sensitive to the Spirit of God

*Led by the Spirit

- It is foreign to many Christians
- But it is true; The Holy Spirit leads us
- **“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are children of God.”** (Rom. 8:14)
- What does it really mean?: “To be led by the Spirit.”
- It is to accept that God’s ways are always the best
- It is to live in the spirit of Jesus who prayed, “Not my will but your will be done.”

*Led by the Holy Spirit

- Through various means*, God's Spirit guides us to choose one path over another
 - *God's Word – "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a..." PS. 119:105
 - *Holy Spirit- John 16:13; 14:26. Holy Spirit guides us. Holy Spirit 'will bring to your remembrance...' We have the ability to choose to follow or not follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. He does not *control* but *leads*.
 - *Sanctified conscience
 - *Godly counsel
 - *Circumstances
 - *Confirmation/Revelation
 - *Prayer- "Lord, what would you have me do?"
- To be led by the Spirit is to walk by faith
- When you are in the will of God you easily recognizes God's leading

*At times, God does not give the *good* that we ask .. That He may give us what is *best*.
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- "I asked God for strength, that I might achieve; I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.
- I asked for health, that I might do greater things; I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.
 - I asked for riches, that I might be happy; I was given poverty, that I might be wise.
- I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men; I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.
 - I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life; I was given life that I might enjoy all things.
- I got nothing that I asked for, but everything I had hoped for; Almost in spite of myself, my unspoken prayers were answered,
And I am, among all men, most richly blessed."
 - Henry Viscardi

*Led by the Holy Spirit

- Are you led by the Holy Spirit, in your everyday living?
- Do you want to be led by the Spirit?
 - Begin with prayer- "Show me Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths." Ps. 25:4
 - Surrender your will to God's good and perfect will (Gal. 2:20)
 - Believe God is at work in your life
 - Follow (obey) the leading of the Holy Spirit
- With the Holy Spirit leading us:
 - We will grow in Christ (become what He has planned for us to be)
 - Our Church will grow- in love, oneness and in number
 - We will bring glory and honor to God
- "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God." Rom. 8:14