

God Moves

The Gospel in Motion

Acts 16:6-15

In today's passage, the Holy Spirit continues to forbid Paul and his travel companion from entering into certain regions to spread Christianity. In spite of their ongoing good work, for some reason the Spirit repeatedly blocks their path. It's difficult to know what purpose God has for our lives and how we go about figuring that out. For Paul, the moment of uncertainty when their plans are altered creates space for clearer dependence, culminating in his vision of the Macedonian man that reveals God's next step.

Where have you experienced a closed door or interruption that may have been God's redirection rather than resistance?

How do we discern the difference between our own hesitation and the Spirit's restraint?

Because of our human limitation that only allows us to be in one place at a time, we are aware of many good, purposeful, yet competing things we could do with our lives. Paul cannot be in Asia, Bithynia, and Macedonia all at once—his calling requires surrendering good options for God's chosen one. God reveals direction to Paul not all at once, but step by step, inviting trust instead of control.

Why is it difficult to trust God when multiple good options are in front of us?

What practices help you remain attentive and interruptible to God's voice?

While in Macedonia, when Paul arrives at Philippi, where he goes outside the gates to place of prayer, and encounters a group of women including Lydia who is described as a "worshipper of God." A gentile who has come to know and love the God of Israel, she has not heard about Jesus at this point. It is written that "the Lord opened her heart" to hear the good news of the gospel from Paul. Here we see that the same God who speaks to Paul through a vision also quietly opens Lydia's heart by grace.

Do you believe God is still active and speaking today, and how does that belief shape your faith?

Where might God be inviting you to participate in His work of reconciliation right now?

