

Led By God's Spirit | Acts 16

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While you are waiting ...the Better not Bitter principle.

Acts 16:27-32 - The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!" The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house.

Story of Acts is vintage us

Vintage Us—People led by God into one world-changing adventure after another. Put another way, our relationship with Jesus is by nature highly interactive.

Romans 8:14 - *For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*

Even people led by God hit dead ends

... "stuck...baffled...lost...unsure...nothing seems to be working" ...

Acts 16:1-3 - Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. And a disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek, and he was well spoken of by the brethren who were in Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted this man to go with him; and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, for they all new that his father was a Greek.

1. Prepare (expect) (concretely and specifically) to be used by God.

Acts 16:6-8- They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them and passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas.

2. Refuse to presume

- wait, inquire, listen

- Notice: an utter lack of blaming or despairing.

Acts 16:9-12 - A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God has called us to preach the gospel to them. So putting out to sea from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and on the day following to Neapolis; and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia, a Roman colony; and we were staying in this city for some days.

3. Listen to be led

- Tip: be open to God speaking to you in all different ways

Acts 16:25 - But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

4. DECIDE NOW: My life is about purpose not pleasure, cause not comfort, the Kingdom of God, not the Kingdom of Me!

- Learning: I must decouple my circumstances from God's love for me.

Quote:

"Don't hold God hostage to one particular answer." - Bill Johnson

Proverbs 13:12 - Hope deferred makes the heart sick. But desire fulfilled is a tree of life.