



Power From on High

Series: Power From On High.
Title: The Doors of Providence
Lesson: 82

Text: Acts 16:1-10
Date: Sept. 22, 2024

Acts 16:1–10 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,

Timothy's personal life

“disciple”

Timothy's family

Timothy's reputation

2 and he was well spoken of by the brethren who were in Lystra and Iconium.

Acts 6:3 “Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of **good reputation**, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task.

1 Timothy 3:7 And he must have a **good reputation** with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

3 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 knew that his father was a Greek.

Is Timothy's circumcision a contradiction?

When the essentials of the gospel are at stake, there is to be _____ compromise, but we should _____ anything that might cause an offense.

1 Corinthians 9:19–23 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more. 20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law; 21 to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law. 22 To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some. 23 I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it.

1 Corinthians 9:19–23 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more.

“I may win more”

20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law;

21 to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law.

22 To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some.

23 I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it.

4 Now while they were passing through the cities, they were delivering the decrees which had been decided upon by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem, for them to observe.

5 So the churches were being strengthened in the faith, and were increasing in number daily.

“being strengthened”

“increasing” in number



6 They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; 7 and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them; 8 and passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas.

There are times when God withholds His Word.

Matthew 13:10–11 And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?” 11 Jesus answered them, “To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.

Matthew 11:25 At that time Jesus said, “I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants.

God’s will is not always _____.

Proverbs 21:5 The plans of the diligent lead surely to advantage, But everyone who is hasty comes surely to poverty.

Proverbs 16:9 The mind of man plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps.

Proverbs 19:21 Many plans are in a man’s heart, But the counsel of the Lord will stand.

James 4:13–15 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.” 14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. 15 Instead, you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.”

8 and passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. 9 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.”

God _____ and _____

doors to accomplish His purpose in our lives and to fulfill His will.

Revelation 3:7 “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:

God lovingly guides us by closing doors in order to open the _____ door at the right _____.

8 and passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. 9 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."

10 When he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

How do we know if God is blocking our plans?

1. Our plans will remain _____.

How can we determine His will?

1. Continually _____ our will

2. _____ and ask others to pray

3. Seek a multitude of _____

4. Watch for providential _____

5 Be sensitive to feelings of _____

6. Be _____ and wait for God to make His will clear.

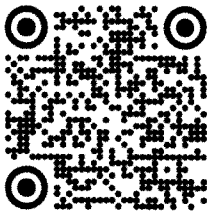
Discussion Guide

1. Which member of the Trinity is mentioned in verses 6-7 and what do these verses teach about His work?

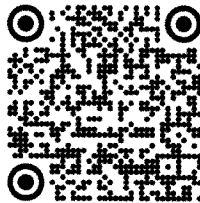
2. We learned today that even though we are to plan, sometimes God keeps those plans from being fulfilled. Share an example in your life where your plans did not work out only to find out later that God had a better plan.

3. Why is much of the Christian life lived out not knowing the specifics of God's will?

4. Review the six principles for determining God's will and pay special attention to numbers 1 and 2.



*Meet
the Staff*



*Online
Giving*



*Weekly
Announcements*

ANSWERS: no, avoid, clear, opens, closes, right, time, unfulfilled, surrender, Pray, council, circumstances, uneasiness, patient