

Discussion Questions

January 12, 2025

Acts 16:6-10 Hearing God's Voice



1. Share a time when you felt a clear sense of God directing you and what that looked like.
2. Read acts 16:6-10
How does the Holy Spirit Guide Paul and his companions in this passage?

Why might God have closed the doors to Asia & Bithynia?

The Holy Spirit didn't give Paul an immediate answer but allowed him to feel his way around the continent over many months. How does this challenge our expectations of how God speaks & directs?
3. In verse 10, the word conclude (symbibázō in the original Greek) means to draw a conclusion based upon the evidence. What does this look like for us today in combining reasoning & faith and divine direction?
4. The sermon mentioned various ways God communicates (e.g., Scripture, open and closed doors, godly desires, wise counsel, still small voice). Which of these has been most prominent in your life and give an example.
5. How can we guard against misinterpreting personal desires or circumstances as God's voice?
6. Discuss your comfort levels with seeking to hear God's voice as you pray for others? If appropriate, take some time and pray for one another in pairs or threes, asking God to lead you as your pray.

Acts 16: 6 -10 (NLT)

Next Paul and Silas traveled through the area of Phrygia and Galatia, because the Holy Spirit had prevented them from preaching the word in the province of Asia at that time. Then coming to the borders of Mysia, they headed north for the province of Bithynia, but again the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them to go there. So instead, they went on through Mysia to the seaport of Troas. That night Paul had a vision: A man from Macedonia in northern Greece was standing there, pleading with him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us!" So we decided to leave for Macedonia at once, having concluded that God was calling us to preach the Good News there.

Galatians 3:1 (NIV)

You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you?

Galatians 3:5 (NIV)

So again I ask, does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you by the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard?

Acts 16:6 (NLT)

Next Paul and Silas traveled through the area of Phrygia and Galatia, because the Holy Spirit had prevented them from preaching the word in the province of Asia at that time.

**Acts 16:7 (NLT)**

Then coming to the borders of Mysia, they headed north for the province of Bithynia, but again the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them to go there.



Acts 16:8 (NLT)

So instead, they went on through Mysia to the seaport of Troas.



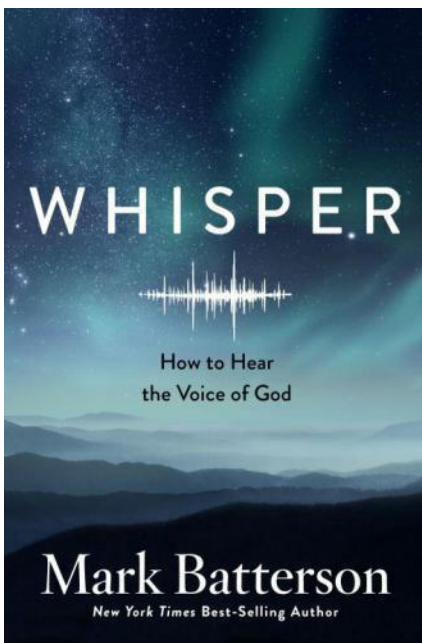
Acts 16:9-10 (NLT)

That night Paul had a vision: A man from Macedonia in northern Greece was standing there, pleading with him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us!" So we decided to leave for Macedonia at once, having concluded that God was calling us to preach the Good News there.

BDAG Lexicon

syμβιβάζω

to draw a conclusion in the face of evidence



Examples of ways God Communicates:

- Scripture
- Open & Closed Doors
- Godly Desires
- Wise counsel
- The Still Small Voice of the Holy Spirit

Paul's process of hearing God in Acts 16

- Follow their Godly Desires
- Seek God's direction
- Without clarity, they do what they feel God has put upon their heart to do
- Recognize when God is closing doors
- Keep seeking God as they continue serving
- God gives them a vision
- Together conclude where to go next

Questions for us today:

1. Do we expect God to be communicating with us?
2. Are we giving space for God to speak?
3. Are we actively posturing our life to be used by Him?