

Acts: The Gospel Gone Viral
Lesson 33 “Spirit Led Pt. 2”

I. We have been studying through *Acts* and how the gospel went viral through various revivals in the first century. This is what turned the world right side up in one generation.

A. Last week we looked at how important the leading of the Holy Spirit was in the first century church.

1. It's been said that if the Holy Spirit didn't show up in the early church they wouldn't know what to do, but today, when He does show up we don't know what to do because we already have a plan.
2. It's not wrong to plan, we just need to look to the Holy Spirit when we formulate the plan and on Sunday mornings if He begins to do something different than we had in the plan, we need to be open to that. We need to be open to that in the rest of our life.
3. The 3 examples we looked at is how the Elders at the Council of Jerusalem were led by the Holy Spirit in making the Jerusalem Decree (no circumcision required to be saved), were led by the spirit to select Paul and Barnabas to send out with the Jerusalem Decree, and then how the Holy Spirit led Silas to be in the right place at the right time to begin traveling with Paul.

B. Today we are going to continue to look at how the Holy Spirit led Paul as he set out on his second missionary journey. We'll also learn some principles about how we can learn to be led by the spirit of God.

II. Spirit Led Part 2

A. **Acts 16:1-5 The Beginning of Paul's Second Missionary Journey**

1. ***Verses 1-3*** - Interestingly, Paul went back to what he had done previously when he began his second missionary journey. He went back into Galatia. Ultimately, we will see call Paul out of where he had gone previously in later verses. **It's ok to go back to the old routine, but we need to be open for something new.**
2. ***Verses 1-3*** Paul connected with a disciple named Timothy there.
 - a. Timothy most likely was converted through Paul's first missionary journey.
 - b. He had a good reputation among those in Iconium and Lystra.
 - c. Paul chose Timothy to travel with he and Silas. He also circumcised Timothy (not so Timothy could be right with God, but so Timothy could be effective in the ministry). **Sometimes we have to lay down our rights to be effective.** ex: Drinking alcohol, going to certain kinds of movies.

3. *Verses 4-5* Paul and his team delivered the decrees to the churches he had initially founded. The churches increased in number daily.

B. Acts 16:6-11 Sensitivity to the Spirit of God

1. *Verses 6-8* After they finished their initial assignment of taking the Jerusalem decree to established churches, they tried to go into Asia Minor (Turkey - where the 7 churches in Revelation are), but the Holy Spirit forbid them.

2. Notice they didn't have a word from God about where to go next. This didn't stop them from going. Why? They already had a word from God in *Matthew 28:18-20* go make disciples of all nations.

a. Lesson 1 - We're not at a red light, we are at a green light when God's word gives us instructions. Jesus's word is spirit and life.

b. Lesson 2 - While we have a green light to go, we need to be sensitive to the traffic lights. We may get a yellow and sometimes we may get a red. We need to heed the lights.

c. Example: Andrew Wommack Ministries job - God led me out of my old job through a call and godly desire, but then I took the job, I got a check because of the hours and felt like I was supposed to quit. God spoke **Psalm 90:17** to me. Went in and talked to HR and then the manager of the phone center at the time came to me and asked if I could work a reduced hours schedule. It was the favor of God.

3. *Verses 9-10* As Paul was intentional about obeying the instructions He had to go, God gave him a dream and a man from Macedonia called him to come help.

a. Lesson 3 - If Paul hadn't been trying to obey God on the direction he already had, I doubt God would have given him the dream. Why should God give us more direction, when we aren't obeying the directions we already have? Example of finding a job. We have a word to set our hand to something. When we begin to look for work, any work and will take it, God can direct us. Too many people wait on a dream or word from God.

b. Lesson 4 - You can't steer a parked car. Many people act like God is trying to hide His will from us. He's not. He has more invested in our relationship than we do. He's trying to show us harder than we are trying to find. We just need to act on what is super clear and when we do, He will direct our paths. **Many people are afraid of getting off track. We won't get off track long if our heart is right.**

4. Out of Paul's obedience to the written word, and the prophetic words that had been spoken over his life in *Acts 9* and *Acts 13*, God gave Paul further instruction. He called Paul into something, Paul had never considered. He started the first church in Europe and this ended up being the church that was the main financial supporter of Paul's ministry.

III. Conclusion - Paul's story is one of being led by the spirit of God. We are sons and daughters of God and we too can be led by His spirit. We need to be obedient to the written word, the inward witness, and then act on the revelation we have and look to Him to refine our focus.

Proverbs 16:9* A man's heart plans His way, but the Lord directs His steps. **No planning on our part, no directing on his part! Paul had a plan and was open to the direction.*

Lesson 5 - The other thing we can learn from Paul is God doesn't give us everything at once. His plan unfolds in our lives. My example of moving to Colorado - it was my horizon, but when I got to the horizon, the horizon moved. We must trust Jesus with the process.

A. Pray Closing Prayer

B. Call Up Prayer Team