

ACTS 29 – **The Holy Spirit's Leading - Acts 16:1-10**

TODAY - we embark on Paul's **Second Missionary Journey**
which **makes** the **1st** Journey - look like a "**Warm-Up**"

This **2nd** Missionary Journey will last - over **2 1/2 YEARS**
& include over **2,000 MILES** of Travel - *More than HALF on Foot !*

AND - besides **starting more churches** than we can count
Paul will also **write at least 2 books** of the NT during this time

All **together** it's estimated Paul travelled over **13,000 Miles**
for the Gospel in his lifetime - by **foot** or by **boat**

& as his **2nd major Journey** begins today
we see a bit of a **DIFFERENT** Paul Emerge

He's **More Determined** than ever
More **Laser-Focused** on the Goal than ever

But he also seems much **more DEPENDENT**
on the **Daily Leading** of the **Holy Spirit**

The **2nd Journey** begins with all kinds of **Twists & Turns**
that come from the **LEADING** of the Holy Spirit

& so - In the **Next THREE CH's** in Acts (**16-18**)
We can learn **A LOT** . . .

About how **WE** can Experience -
The **DAILY LEADING** - of **THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Let's Pray

Again it seems - as we compare this Journey with the First - it seems Paul has GROWN more DEPENDENT on the Spirit's LEADING

& we want to Know HOW he GOT THERE
so we can get there with him

Unfortunately - We'd have to read something from every book Paul wrote - to try to MAKE a RECIPE for being LED by the Spirit

& Really - even then - there can be NO RECIPE -
Because God Refuses to Work WITHIN a RECIPE

But there are TWO things I really want you to see about Paul
As we Journey with Him for the Next 3 Ch's

& I'm going to TRY to point these two truths out
as we go thru the entire 2nd Missionary Journey

#1) Paul's MAIN PURPOSE was CRYSTAL CLEAR

From a BIG PICTURE Standpoint
He KNEW What He was CALLED to do

He was called to PREACH CHRIST - To Share the Good News -
& That Primarily - To the GENTILES

So Paul absolutely KNEW - WHAT he was going to be doing -
No matter in WHAT the Circumstances were, or how they changed

#2) Paul had an UNHINDERED RELATIONSHIP with the Holy Spirit

We see - Especially on this 2nd Missionary Journey -
that Paul had - what Lloyd Olgilvie calls;

***A Humble, Receptive, Ready mind,
coupled with a Totally Surrendered Will***

By this trip - **Paul's life** had become more & more **SATURATED**
with "***Continual Communion with the Holy Spirit***"

FOR the Purpose - of **Daily LEADING** his life

I know **what** we **WANT** - is a **RECIPE**
But here's **What** Paul Really **HAD** . . .

- 1) A **Crystal Clear Purpose** from the Lord - &
- 2) An **UN-Hindered Relationship** with the Holy Spirit

He had ***a Humble, Receptive, Ready mind,
coupled with a Totally Surrendered Will***

& so - His **PURPOSE** *Never* **CHANGED**

And - Because of his **UNHINDERED RELATIONSHIP** with
the Holy Spirit - Marked espec by a Totally Surrendered WILL . . .

He was **ABLE** to **MAINTAIN** his **CLEAR PURPOSE** -
AND allow the Holy Spirit to be in **CHARGE** of **EVERY** situation

Again - **this** is **A TRUTH** we'll see **THRU-OUT** this entire Journey

& so I'll Keep **GOING BACK** to **this Truth** (& develop it)
as we **study** this **entire** incredible **Journey**

OK ?

& by the way - I Firmly Believe - that WHAT DEVELOPED (Refined)

this *Humble, Receptive, Ready mind, coupled with a Totally Surrendered Will* in Paul . . .

Werethe DIFFICULTIES, BATTLES, & FAILURES
he had already HAD in the Ministry - - **So TAKE HEART**

Today - We see THREE TYPES of Holy Spirit LEADING:

- 1) Leading through DIFFICULTY
- 2) Leading by PREVENTING our Actions
- 3) Leading by DRIVING our Actions

& I PRAY We would be able to see the Holy Spirit LEADING US
in these SAME three areas

We actually have to go back into Ch 15 to see BOTH:

- 1) The Beginning of the 2nd Missionary Journey
- 2) To pick-up the Holy Spirit's LEADING thru Difficulty

Last week - We dissected the Painful Ministry BREAK-UP
of Paul & Barnabas - & Barnabas sailed off with John-Mark

& then we read back in Acts 15:40-41 (esv)

40 but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord.

41 And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

We talked Last Week - about ALL the "Coincidental" Gifting Silas had that made him a PERFECT Ministry Partner for Paul

INCLUDING that He was a STENOGRAPHER -

Helpful if Paul wanted to write some of the NT during this trip

This is where the Holy Spirit's **LEADING** Thru Difficulty - **BEGAN**
BUT - His **LEADING** doesn't **END** here

We pick up now in Acts 16:1 (ESV)

1 Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra . . .

Now - This is **ALREADY** close to a **300 mi Journey** on foot
thru a very steep **mountain** range

That's **like walking** from here to **PHOENIX** (w/o the Mtn Range)
& that's **just** to get the trip **started**

Paul & Silas were going **BACKWARDS** (back-tracking) -
to **all the cities** Paul visited on his **1st Journey**
*which would become known as - The **GALATIAN** Churches*

So - (after **300 mi's**) they passed thru **DERBE** - & came to **LYSTRA**
where we see the Holy Spirit's cont'd **LEADING thru DIFFICULTY**

Again - Acts 16:1-2 (ESV)

***1 Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there,
named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer,
but his father was a Greek.***

2 He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium

It's **HERE** (in Lystra) - that Paul meets - **TIMOTHY**

Timothy became one of Paul's **MOST TRUSTED** Co-Workers
He was **with Paul** thru Thick & Thin,

Paul referred to him as ***"My true son in the Faith"***

& he **said** to the Philippians - ***"For I have No One like him"***

TWO of the **N.T. Letters** were Addressed to **Timothy**

He was **With Paul** for the writing of at least **SIX N.T. Letters**
& He was the **Pastor** in **Ephesus** during very difficult times

But - Here's what I really **need you** to **consider**

Some believe - that Paul's "Taking On" of Young Timothy
was in some way - A **Response** or a **Reaction**
from him **NOT** taking on Young **John-Mark**

Some **go as far** to say - that it seemed Paul may've **REGRETTED**
his **decision** with **John-Mark**

& that **may've had** something to do with him **Pouring his life**
into a similarly young - **Timothy**

That **Definitely** can be the **Holy Spirit's** Leading
THRU past Difficulties

& so - we read at the Beginning of Acts 16:3 (esv)
3 Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him . . .

& so - **AS** the Holy Spirit **LED** Thru the **Difficulty** with Barnabas
Timothy replaced **John-Mark** - as the **young disciple** of the team

BUT - - That was **NOT** the **ONLY** Difficulty
the Holy Spirit was **LEADING THRU**

It seems **Timothy** had been Saved on Paul's **FIRST** visit to **Lystra**

Do you remember what **KIND of a MARK**
Paul left on that city, the **1st time** he was there ??

Or should I say - do you remember what KIND of a MARK the CITY left on PAUL the 1st time He was there ??

They STONED Paul - & they Left Him for DEAD in Lystra !!

Paul & Barnabas had Nothing But DIFFICULTY in Lystra

FIRST - they wanted to WORSHIP them as god's

THEN - they tried to Kill Paul

& back in Acts 14:20 it says the Believers Gathered around Paul while he was lying there bleeding in a ditch outside town

& I'll bet you Anything - Young Timothy was ONE of those Believers

& just as the STONING of Stephen
MUST'VE had a "Moving Effect" on Paul

So NOW - the STONING of Paul
MUST'VE had a "Moving Effect" on Timothy

Guys - if you are truly following the Lord - Walking in the Spirit . . .

Then - in Every STRUGGLE - Every DIFFICULTY
Every FAILURE - God is AT WORK - For GOOD
(either yours, or someone else's)

So Please - DON'T RUN from your DIFFICULTIES
& DON'T ACCUSE God of not caring

God is AT WORK - IN & THRU the DIFFICULTIES
to LEAD You & GUIDE You - for a GOOD PURPOSE

SO Watch for HOW God may be Working THRU your Difficulties
& try to JOIN Him - Instead of RESISTING Him

So the team is **REBUILT** - with **Silas & Timothy**
kind of "Taking the Places" of **Barnabas & John-Mark**

But - there was **one little issue** that Paul felt best to "take care of"

Again - Acts 16:3 (esv)

3 Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

It might've **been easier** to understand if the **end of V.3** said
For they all knew Timothy's MOTHER was a JEW

According to **JEWISH LAW** - If a Child had a **Gentile Father**
& a **Jewish Mother** - was considered a **JEW** . . .

& so - was to be **circumcised** - - But - Timothy **WASN'T**

& So **Paul** could've made a **Big STAND** on the recent Jerusalem
Ruling - & **FOUGHT** with **Every Jew** in **Every Synagogue** over it

Or - He **could've** had Timothy **circumcised** to **AVOID** the Controversy
so that they could **FOCUS** on **GIVING** the **Gospel** Message

Paul **Chose the LATTER** - Because **Arguing** over the **MINOR** things
Just **PREVENTS** us from **SHARING** - the **MAJOR** things

SCRIP REFS - **1Cor 9, Rom 14 & 15**

& so - having **taken care** of that - - they're **ready** to **get rolling**
& 1st - they **head back** to all the cities from the **1st** Journey

& **deliver** to them the **RULING** of the **Jerusalem Council**
About the Gentiles **NOT having** to follow the Jewish Laws

Acts 16:4-5 (esv)

4 As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem.

5 So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.

This Team was Off to a GREAT Start

Delivering **GOOD NEWS** to the churches

STRENGTHENING them in the Faith

& seeing the **NUMBERS** of Believers **INCREASING**

& so they **made** their way back to **ANTIOCH PISIDIA**
which is where **Paul** started this leg of the **1st Journey** . . .

& then they **WANTED** to Head a **bit SOUTH** - to **Asia-Minor**

& **THIS** is where we see the **SECOND WAY**
the Holy Spirit **LEADS** Us

WHEN we have that *Humble, Receptive, Ready mind,*
coupled with a Totally Surrendered Will

He leads us thru **PREVENTING** our Actions!

Acts 16:6 (esv)

6 And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia.

From **Antioch Pisidia** - Paul wanted to turn **SOUTH** to Asia-Minor
- But they were **FORBIDDEN** by the Holy Spirit to go there

What? - Does God have **something Against** these people?

NO - there are churches started later in this same area

Peter addresses the churches in this area in his **1st book**
& the **7 churches of Revelation** are in this area

But the Holy Spirit **FORBID** Paul
at **This Time**, with **This team**, to go there

& **we'll GET** to the **WHY** - But 1st - the Question is - **HOW??**

HOW did the Holy Spirit **FORBID** Paul from going **South** this area?

A **WHOLE BUNCH** of people have Speculated a **WHOLE** Bunch
of **EXTERNAL** ways - that this may have happened

But **I believe** when we look at this **JOURNEY** as a **WHOLE**
what **we see** is;

A man who's **SELF-Will** is completely **CRUCIFIED**
& who is **SATURATED** in Daily Communication with **the SPIRIT**

& **WHEN** we have - the ***Humble, Receptive, Ready mind, coupled
with a Totally Surrendered Will*** - Like Paul HAD

Then we are **IN A PLACE** - where the Holy Spirit Can **PREVENT** us
from **GOING** in a Direction **HE** doesn't want us to go

It's **NOT a FORMULA** - It's a **RELATIONSHIP**

YES - The Holy Spirit **DOES lead** thru **CIRCUMSTANCES**
& we'll see **PLENTY of THAT** thru this Journey

But there's **NO Circumstances** Recorded **HERE**
Just the **PREVENTION** of the Holy Spirit to **Paul's Plans**

Guys - When we HAVE:

- 1) The Big Picture **PURPOSE** Firmly in Mind
- 2) Totally **SURRENDERED** our **SELF Will**
- 3) A **CONTINUAL COMMUNION** with the Holy Spirit . . .

THEN - The Holy Spirit can **EASILY LEAD** us

& **HERE** (v.6) - the Holy Spirit **PREVENTS** Paul - From taking **ACTION**

So IF there's a RECIPE - I guess that's it:

- 1) Have the Big Picture **PURPOSE** Firmly in Mind
- 2) Have a Totally **SURRENDERED SELF-Will**
- 3) Be in **CONTINUAL COMMUNION** with the Holy Spirit

As we **Continue** with Paul thru this **Missionary Journey**,
we'll see **These TRUTHS** - come up **over & over** again - **[REPEAT]**

So (v.6) - the team was **Generally Headed** in a **Westerly** Direction

They **WANTED** to Turn **SOUTH** - to Asia-Minor,
but they were **FORBIDDEN** by the Holy Spirit

So they just **kept going WEST**

Their **PURPOSE** Hadn't **CHANGED**

& Because of their **SURRENDERED Self-Will** -
& their **CONTINUAL COMMUNION** with the Holy Spirit . . .

They just **KEPT doing** - What they were **Called to Do**
In the **SAME Direction** - they had **BEEN** doing it - **WESTWARD**

& so they continued WEST to the area of MYSIA -
& they decided AGAIN - to Turn from their Westerly Course

This time they wanted to turn NORTH (other direction)
& to go up into BITHYNIA

They're in the MIDST of a 400 mi walk right now
& it seems ONLY LOGICAL

for them to turn one way or another
to get to some of these Big cities that really NEED Jesus

The Holy Spirit had FORBIDDEN them from going SOUTH
So maybe they're supposed to go NORTH instead

Yeah, that's it - We'll head NORTH up to BITHYNIA
those are Great Cities up there - & THEY need Jesus

EEHHH - Wrong again !

Acts 16:7 (esv)

7 And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.

Notice - this time around - the Holy Spirit is called
"The Spirit of Jesus" - keep watching that

& so - the *"The Spirit of Jesus"* (the Holy Spirit) -
DID NOT ALLOW them to turn North toward Bithynia

PUT UP MAP - EXPLAIN - this is a **SIMPLIFIED VERSION**

Let's Go SOUTH - NO!! - - Let's Go NORTH - NO!!
OKAAAY - Uh, Let's just keep heading WEST ?? - YES !!

Acts 16:8 (esv) - NO SLIDE

8 So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas.

Really it was "**Passing THRU**" **Mysia** - in other words,
they were **just continuing** to head **WEST**

The **Holy Spirit** wouldn't let them TURN **SOUTH** to big cities there
The **Holy Spirit** wouldn't let them TURN **NORTH** to big cities there

So they just **KEPT going** the **direction** they were **going**
& they **just kept doing** what they **KNEW** they were to be **doing**

You can **Imagine Paul** saying . . .

MAN! - the **Holy Spirit** wouldn't let me Turn **SOUTH**
He **wouldn't let** me turn **NORTH**
I **certainly can't** go backwards (which would be **EAST**)

So - I guess I'll just KEEP DOING what I'm doing
Which is . . . Heading **WEST**

But **then** - an **interesting thing** Happened
They **RAN OUT** of **REAL ESTATE** !!

They reached **TROAS** - on the coast
& that was as **FAR WEST** as they could GO

The **Holy Spirit** was leading them **WEST**,
they went as **FAR** as they **could Go** . . . ***NOW WHAT ??***

Well - It's **probably** a Good time to - ***GO TO BED !!***

They had **walked NO LESS** than **800 Mi's** at this point
& maybe **closer** to a **THOUSAND**

That's like walking from HERE to ALBUQUERQUE NM

I'm thinking they were THANKFUL
that they ran out of REAL ESTATE to walk WEST on

So they Hit the OCEAN at TROAS - & Decided to take a NAP

& THEN - & ONLY THEN - Did the Holy Spirit GIVE them
their Next Marching Orders

See - When your Commanding Officer tells you to WALK WEST
You WALK WEST . . .

Until you run out of Real Estate - Or Receive a New Command

For Paul - the New Command Came - in the form of
the Holy Spirit DRIVING him - to ACTION

Acts 16:9-10 (esv)

9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

10 And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately WE sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Notice FIRST - the word WE in V.10 (Re-Read)

Luke switches to writing in the FIRST-PERSON
Because at this point Luke JOINS Paul, Silas, & Timothy

That's a Great Story in itself - & maybe we can get into it Next Week

& Notice also - **THIS TIME** the Holy Spirit is **CALLED GOD**

So now - **He's been Called** **The Holy Spirit**
The Spirit of Jesus
& now simply - GOD

& So **FIRST** - the Holy Spirit **LED** thru **DIFFICULTY**
THEN - the Holy Spirit **LED** thru **PREVENTING** Action
NOW - the Holy Spirit is **LEADING** thru **DRIVING** to Action

& He does it thru a **VISION** to Paul

& **THEN** - V.10 says now Paul **CONCLUDED** God had called them
to **Preach the Gospel** to those in **Macedonia**

The **GRK word** for **CONCLUDED** means - ***"To come together, to see things agree, pointing to a direction"***

& **THAT** - is what has now happened to **PAUL**

ALL of the Holy Spirit's **LEADING**
Thru **DIFFICULTY**, Thru **PREVENTING**, thru **DRIVING** to action

ALL of it has now **COME TOGETHER**
& it's **ALL pointing** in a Single **DIRECTION** - - **MACEDONIA**

Now - this is **SO HUGE** - You've got to **SEE THIS**

PUT MAP ON SCREEN

See all those **cities** in the **TOP LEFT**
Thesalonica - **Apollonia** - **Amphipolis** - **Philippi** - **Neapolis** . . .

THAT'S EUROPE !! - & **THAT** is where Paul was **GOING**

& **EUROPE** was actually the **LAUNCH PAD** for World-Wide **Evangelism** for More than the next **1500 YEARS**

God **NEEDED** the Gospel **FIRMLY PLANTED** in Europe
So that **YOU & I** could be saved in America

The **Gospel in America** is Traced Back to **EUROPE**

& the **Gospel in EUROPE** - Is Traced back
to **THIS MISSIONARY JOURNEY !!!**

Is **THAT COOL** - Or **WHAT !!**

NOW do you see why the **Leading** of the Holy Spirit
was **SO IMPORTANT** in getting Paul to **GO to EUROPE**

So that the Gospel could **eventually get** to the town in **America**
where **YOU & I** got Saved

MAN - I am *Personally* **SO GLAD**
Paul **LEARNED** How to **BE LED** by the Holy Spirit

Because **THAT** was the **beginning of the Gospel** - that reached **ME**

& so - we have to **CLOSE** with **v.11**

Acts 16:11 (esv) - NO SLIDE

11 So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace (Samothrakay), and the following day to Neapolis (Neaos),

THAT - is **EUROPE** - & from there - the Gospel reached **US**

As we cont studying Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey thru Ch 18

We'll see Successes & Difficulties

Miraculous high-points & Life-threatening low points

But the Lord will be with Paul - Thru it ALL

& The Holy Spirit will CONTINUE to Lead & Guide him

Paul will MAINTAIN his;

1) Crystal Clear Purpose from the Lord - &

2) UN-Hindered Relationship with the Holy Spirit

& with his *Humble, Receptive, Ready mind,*
coupled with a Totally Surrendered Will

The Holy Spirit will Continue to LEAD this Team
to Bring the Gospel - TO THE WORLD !!

& guys WE can experience the same

Leading & Guiding of the *Holy Spirit*

He's the Same for US - As He was for PAUL

WE can LEARN - - to WALK in the Spirit,

& be SENSITIVE to the Spirit - - Just like Paul did

God wants to GIVE US - a Crystal Clear PURPOSE

& Thru an UN-HINDERED Relationship with the Holy Spirit

He wants to LEAD us - in EVERY Situation

Let's ALLOW Him to do THAT - in our Lives - Amen?

Let's Pray