

# DIVINE DIRECTION

August 5, 2018

## I. THREE WAYS WE MAY BE LED BY GOD

**Acts 15:40-41** but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the believers to the grace of the Lord. He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

**Acts 16:1-3** Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer but whose father was a Greek. The believers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. Paul wanted to take him along on the journey,

### 1. DO WHAT SEEMS GOOD

**Acts 15:28** It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements:

**A. Most of life's decisions are made by doing the thing that seems good to do.**

**B. 5 questions to ask yourself before making a decision**

1. What does God's Word say about this decision?
2. Do I have peace from the Holy Spirit about this decision?
3. What do other people in my life that I trust think about this decision?

**Proverbs 12:15** The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice.

**Proverbs 15:22** Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

4. What makes sense in this situation?
5. Am I being faithful to my calling with this decision?

**C. You will not receive divine direction unless you are willing to take human action.**

**Jeremiah 6:16** This is what the Lord says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, 'We will not walk in it.'

1. You can't steer a parked car.

2. God brings divine direction to our human action when we submit ourselves to Him.

## **2. BE AVAILABLE FOR DIVINE APPOINTMENTS**

**Acts 16:6-10** Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

**A. A divine appointments is when God divinely leads us in specific areas of our lives.**

**B. God often uses divine appointments to accomplish His purposes in our lives.**

**C. What does a divine appointment look like?**

1. Some divine appointments are supernatural.
  - a. How God leads...
    - God may lead us by means of... An inner sense of direction.
    - God may lead us by means of... The Word of God.
    - God may lead us by means of... Prophetic revelation.
    - God may lead us by means of... External circumstances.
    - God may lead us by means of... Dreams and visions.
  - b. Prepare yourself for what you know God wants you to do.
  - c. Stop doing other things so you can do the thing that seems good to you and the Holy Spirit.
  - d. When times are tough, remember the times God made Himself real to you.
2. Some divine appointments are naturally super.

**Acts 16:13-15** On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

- What looks like natural coincidence is often divine intervention.

#### **D. We must learn to identify and make the most of the divine appointments in our lives.**

**2 Peter 1:2** (NLT96) May God bless you with his special favor and wonderful peace as you come to know Jesus, our God and Lord, better and better.

### **3. BE FAITHFUL IN DIVINE DISAPPOINTMENTS.**

**Acts 16:6-8** Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas.

#### **A. Direction sometimes comes through a divine no.**

- If you want to hear the divine yes, you must be willing to listen to the divine no.

#### **B. Being led by the Spirit may mean seasons of waiting or even uncertainty.**

1. When we do not have clarity in our direction, we can still have certainty in our God.
2. If Jesus is alive, there are no dead ends.

#### **C. Being led by the Spirit may mean a change of plans.**

**Psalms 37:3-7** Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun. Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.

1. Direction sometimes comes through opposition.

**Acts 16:16-24** Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her. When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

2. God may allow divine disappointments to accomplish His purposes in our lives.

**Psalms 37:34** (NLT96) Don't be impatient for the Lord to act! Travel steadily along his path. He will honor you, giving you the land. You will see the wicked destroyed.

3. Your disappointment could be a divine appointment.