

DISCERNMENT FOR DIRECTION

Pastor Chad Gilligan | March 6, 2022

I. INTRODUCTION TO A NEW SEASON

A. New Seasons Emerge from Fresh Encounters with the Holy Spirit

*Heavenly Father,
In This New Season
May Your Holy Spirit
Bring To Me...
Discernment For Direction*

B. What do you do when God does not do what you want Him to do?

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.

II. TWO QUESTIONS TO ASK: WHY NOT NOW? WHAT NEXT?

A. Why Not Now?

Five Ways God Might be Working in Your Waiting

1. Divine Protection

Deuteronomy 7:22 The LORD your God will drive out those nations before you, little by little. You will not be allowed to eliminate them all at once, or the wild animals will multiply around you.

2. Spiritual Conflict

Daniel 10:13 But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.

3. Personal Preparation

John 2:4 “Woman, why do you involve me?” Jesus replied. “My hour has not yet come.”

Joshua 1:2 “Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites.

4. Humble Dependence

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.

5. Future Focus

Acts 16:6-7 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.

- Sometimes it is more important to hear a no than it is to hear a yes.
- Every good idea is not the next big thing from God.

B. What Next?

Three Things to do While You Wait

1. Keep Faithful

Acts 16:6-7 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.

- Stay faithful to what God has called you to do.
- Frustration will freeze us if we are not faithful.

2. Keep Listening

Acts 16:8-9 So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. 9 During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.”

- You may be in a season of doors that are closed so that you will have a heart that is open.
- The Spirit's voice is more important than strategic vision.
- Our planning prepares us for the Spirit's leading.
- Sometimes God does the structural before He does the supernatural.

3. Keep Trusting

Acts 16:10 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.

- If we are not careful, we may confuse frustration for failure.
- Trust that today's frustration is leading you to tomorrow's fruitfulness.