

# God Controls the Outcome

- The birth of the Philippian Church -

**Acts 16:6-40**

## Philippians, an unlikely (God-made) church.

### Lydia

- **Wealthy Asian Businesswoman**
- **God fearer**
- **Reached through public exposition**

### Slave Girl

- **Poor Greek Slave**
- **Tormented by evil spirits**
- **Reached through dramatic exorcism**

### Jailer

- **Blue-collar Roman**
- **Indifferent to religion**
- **Reached through public exposition, godly example and miracles**

## The Philippian Church:

- i. The first church planted in Europe (Acts 16).**
- ii. Used as a model for churches (2Co 8:1-5; 9:1-5).**
- iii. They were a very generous church (Phil 4:10-19).**
- iv. They help us define biblical fellowship (Phil 1:5).**
- v. Philippians helps us understand suffering (1:21; 4:13)**

**Big Idea: God controls the outcome;  
so, we share the gospel.**

<sup>13</sup> And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. <sup>14</sup> One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup> And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.

<sup>16</sup> As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup> She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." <sup>18</sup> And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. <sup>19</sup> But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers ...

<sup>23</sup> And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely... <sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, <sup>26</sup> and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. <sup>27</sup> When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup> But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here."

<sup>29</sup> And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" <sup>31</sup> And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." <sup>32</sup> And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. <sup>33</sup> And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. <sup>34</sup> Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.



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## God Controls the Outcome

1. **God directs us for his Glory (vv. 6-10; 13, 16, 24).**
2. **We tell people about Jesus (vv. 13, 17, 25, 30-32).**
3. **God gives the increase (vv. 14, 18, 26, 34).**
4. **We're changed by Jesus (vv. 15, 19, 31-33).**

1. God directs us for his glory (vv. 13, 16, 24).

<sup>13</sup> And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer...

<sup>16</sup> As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl ...

<sup>24</sup> Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks...

They went exactly where God sent (vv. 6-10).

<sup>6</sup> And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. <sup>7</sup> And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. <sup>8</sup> So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. <sup>9</sup> 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." <sup>10</sup> 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.

## God directs our steps for his mission.

- i. Our first (or 2nd ...) choice may not be God's choice.**
- ii. Trust God's sovereignty for His mission.**
- iii. Rejoice in the Spirit's restraint/redirection.**
- iv. Keep going/trying, even when redirected.**

Three questions help us discern God's will.

- i. Is it biblical?**
- ii. Do I have peace about the decision?**
- iii. Have other confirmed my decision?**

2. Tell people about Jesus (vv. 13, 17, 25, 30-32).

we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. (v. 13).

Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” (v. 18).

Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them ... <sup>31</sup> And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” (vv. 25; 31).

We must speak the gospel (Rom 10:13-14).

- i. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”**
- ii. How will they call if they’ve not believed?**
- iii. How will they believe if they’ve not heard?**
- iv. How will they hear without someone telling them?**



### 3. God gives the increase (vv. 14, 18, 26).

**The Lord opened [Lydia's] heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul (v. 14)**

**And [the evil spirit] came out that very hour. (v. 18).**

**there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened (v. 26).**

## 4. Jesus changes us (vv. 15, 19, 31-33).

**[Lydia] was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us (v. 15).**

**But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone (v. 19).**

**[The Jailer] took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. <sup>34</sup> Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God (vv. 33-34).**

## Three attributes of the Philippian believers:

- i. They receive baptism (vv. 15a, 33).**
- ii. They influence their homes (vv. 15b, 19, 31-33).**
- iii. They unify with other believers (vv. 15c, 33).**
- iv. Has God changed you?**

Knowing that God controls the outcome, would you step out on faith and share the gospel?