

When God changes your Plans Acts 16:5-12

I. God sometimes leads by _____ (vs. 6-8)

a. *The Spirit forbade the Westward Mission*

Word Study: “forbidden” = to hinder, prevent, withhold, deny, refuse.

Quote: “One can feel in his heart a check, a warning, a sense of unrest if a proposed course is displeasing to God. Oh, blessed Holy Spirit, make us sensitive to listen! The tender, earnest heart that has no will of its own except to find the Lord’s will, can know the will of God, can have the sweet, clear, leading of the Holy Spirit.” - John R. Rice¹

b. *The Spirit forbade the Northward Mission*

Quote: “The reason you must ultimately trust the sovereign will of God is that you don’t see all the facts. You never get all the details. So when you make a decision and the holy Spirit blocks it, as happened to Paul in Acts 16:6, you have to trust that He sees something in the road ahead that you can’t see. God’s sovereign will must superintend your individual choices.” - Tony Evans²

II. God will thereafter lead by _____ (vs. 9)

Quote: “Paul was seeking clear leading from the Lord as to where he should go for a new area of ministry. Again, we see

¹ Rice, John R. *Filled with the Spirit*. Murfreesboro, TN: Sword of the Lord Publishers, 1963.

² Evans, Anthony T. *Theology you can Count on*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2008.

the transitional nature of Acts. Since we have the completed Bible, God no longer speaks through visions such as the one He sent Paul to call him to Macedonia” - Paul Chappell³

When one door closes another one opens. When God closes a door it only means there is something better behind another one.

III. God leads those with _____ Hearts (vs. 10)

Word Study: “endeavored” = seek after, aim at, strive for.

Quote: “Once the will of God is made clear, we have an obligation to immediately do it. Delay in doing the will of God is the same as disobedience. Those who complain about not knowing the will of God often have their delinquency to blame. God makes His will known plainly in due time. Prompt obedience, however, is necessary to keep on the light of God’s will.” - John G. Butler⁴

IV. God leads those that He can _____ on (vs. 11-12)

Word Study: “straight course” = run before the wind. It is a nautical term meaning to take a ship and charting a course without having the wind in your favor.

³ Chappell, Paul. *Acts: The Church Alive*. Lancaster, CA: Striving Together Publications, 2006.

⁴ Bulter, John G. *Analytical Bible Expositor*. Clinton, IA: LBC Publications, 2009.