

## **Title: Walking in the Spirit:** When the Answer is No

Throughout this series, we have observed how the Spirit guides us into new vistas and new places.

1. **PAUL TOTALLY REGULATED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT:**

The book of Acts opened with the promise of the empowerment of the Holy Spirit Acts 1:8. Once converted, Paul certainly followed that mandate.

Acts 16:6

* You can be in the Will of God, while missing the Will of God.
* *“Forbidden”* in vs. 6 & “*Did Not Permit”* them in vs. 7 indicate that Paul was under the Spirit’s command.
* You must be open for God to change your plans. Romans1:13; 15:22. 1Thessalonians 2:17-18
* When doors close unexpectedly, others open miraculously. Europe receives the gospel through the Macedonian call. Are you willing to lay down your will for His will to be done?
* God uses the simple routines of life to create great impact i.e. Rebecca at the well; David takes refreshing to his brothers; Joseph goes on errand that would change his life for good.

Acts 16:13. 1Collosians 3:6. Acts 16:14. Acts 16:25-28. Acts 16:35-37.

God did not send an earthquake for Paul and Silas to provide a miraculous jailbreak. To them, the lives of others were more important than their own personal freedom and comfort. In not escaping, they showed tremendous discernment.

**The *circumstances* said, “escape”, but love said, “Stay for the sake of this one soul.” They were not guided merely by circumstances, but as compelled by Love.**

Paul’s answer to the keeper of the prison is a classic statement of the essence of the gospel... *Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved*. This is salvation by Grace alone, received by faith alone.

Bishop John Taylor Smith, an old chaplain general of the British Army used a unique test on candidates for the chaplaincy. He asked them to say how they would speak to a man injured in battle, who had three minutes left to live on how to be saved and come to peace with God. If they couldn’t do it within three minutes, they weren’t fit for the chaplain’s service. Paul would have qualified.

**How could Paul, Peter & Philip know they had heard from the Holy Spirit?**

Same way a child recognizes its parent’s voice in a noisy nursery!

Or how we recognize each other’s voices even when we don’t see the individual.

It’s all about relationships and quality time.