

Daily Devotional, July 24, 2020 Allowing God to Guide Us

That night Paul had a vision: A man from Macedonia in northern Greece was standing there, pleading with him, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us!' 10 So we decided to leave for Macedonia at once, having concluded that God was calling us to preach the Good News there. Acts 16:9-10

Do you believe that God wishes to speak to you and to guide your life the way He did with the people of scripture? Do you believe that God wants to direct you in the decisions you make, both large and small? The Apostle Paul was convinced that God intended to do precisely that in his life.

As Paul began his second missionary expedition, it had gotten off on the wrong foot. He and his good friend Barnabas had decided to go their separate ways over a disagreement on whether to bring John Mark along, the young man who had deserted them on their earlier missionary trip. This reveals to us that even great spiritual leaders such as Paul were not exempt from going through the distress of personal friction.

Then as Paul began to travel around the region to check up on and reassure the churches he planted, as he entered new towns, he was rejected in one place after another while attempting to preach the gospel. This must have been highly disappointing and difficult for him.

And then one night, Paul heard God's voice in a vision, showing him a man asking Paul to come to the country of Macedonia to help him and his people! So, Paul called upon his friend Silas and sailed for Greece. They then made their way to Philippi, a major city in Macedonia. They soon found an opportunity to share the gospel with some women outside the city and one woman in particular, Lydia, became a follower of Christ as a result. As time went by, she became a leader in the church and a great source of assistance and encouragement to Paul. And all of this emerged because Paul was willing to hear God speak and to allow God to guide his path.

God still enters into our lives today. God will speak and guide us if we allow him to speak—and if we choose to listen. Some folks believe that God doesn't care about the minor details of their lives so they don't waste their time asking for God's help and guidance. Therefore, they largely make decisions based on their own reasoning and perceptions. But there are others who believe that God speaks to them daily, and that God wants to lead them to the right place to live, the right career path, the right person to date and settle down with, and the ministries that their gifts can be best utilized. And because they ask God for His guidance in these areas, God does speak, and God opens one amazing door after another for them.

When Paul was given the vision to go to Macedonia, it came only after a period of personal conflict and disheartening ministry. Yet when he responded to the vision of God directing him to go to Macedonia an entire new continent became opened up to the gospel. You could say the rest is history!

Do you feel like your life has become the equivalent of doors slamming in your face and major disappointments occurring daily? Don't give up! Ask God to speak to you today and commit to obeying God's guidance. Just wait and see what God has in store for you!

Prayer : O Lord my God, help me to trust you with my decisions and my future. Let me lean on you with all my heart instead of relying on my own imperfect understanding. Give me clear guidance in my life, Lord. As I submit myself to you, I know that you will direct my paths and I can have confidence that your direction is always the best way to go. Hear my prayer, Father. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.: