

Seek the Holy Spirit's guidance in our lives

“And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—**think** about such things.⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—**put it into practice**. And the God of peace will be with you.”
(Philippians 4: 7-9)

Love is active. It demands action on our part.

When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. ⁸ 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.” 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. (Acts 16: 7-10)

Immediate obedience is what God desires

Obedience leads to supernatural harvest



Obedience leads to supernatural harvest



Obey the Holy Spirit's direction

Paul's 2nd missionary journey: c. 50-52 AD



Expect pain and suffering on the journey of discipleship

“Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.” (Luke 9:23)

The cross is our daily companion. It is part of authentic Christian discipleship. Sacrifice is in its DNA.

Expect pain and suffering on the journey of discipleship

¹⁶ Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money forshouting her owners by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ She followed Paul and the rest of us,, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.” ¹⁸ She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!” At that moment the spirit left her. (Acts 16: 16-18)

Staying the course during the dark times.

¹⁹ When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. ²⁰ They brought them before the magistrates and said, “These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar ²¹ by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.”

²² The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods.

²³ After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully.

²⁴ When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. (Acts 16: 22-24)

“We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters,^[a] about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. ⁹ Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.” (2 Corinthians 1: 8-9)

“For when we came into Macedonia, we had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn—conflicts on the outside, fears within...” (2 Cor 7:5).

Midnight darkness

"About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them." (Acts 16: 25)

Victory comes

- “About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose. ²⁷ The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!” ²⁹ The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹ They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” ³² Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ³³ At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. ³⁴ The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.” (Acts 16:25-34)

Victory comes with the cross

- “Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.” (Romans 5:3-4)

Paul shows us how to stay the course!

1. Seek and Listen to the Holy Spirit:

- Paul didn't go to Bithyna.

2. Obey the Holy Spirit's direction:

- Paul showed immediate obedience and went to Troas & Macedonia

3. Expect pain and suffering on the journey of discipleship.

- Paul stayed the course even when humiliated and beaten

4. Praise God in the midnight darkness.

- In the darkness of prison, Paul praised God.