

# A New Direction in Serving God

Acts 16:6-15

## Introduction

A guiding Scripture: Revelation 3:7-8

### A. Closed Doors and an Open Door. Acts 16:6-10

1. Closed Doors. A baffling trip. Acts 16:6-8
2. Observations...
  - a. Sometimes God shuts doors of ministry.
  - b. This can be frustrating and perplexing.
  - c. Don't give up. Keep trying to serve.
  - d. You can't steer a parked car!
3. Open Door. A new direction. Acts 16:9-10
  - a. Night-Time Vision.
  - b. Man of Macedonia.
  - c. Decision to Travel.
4. Observations...
  - a. Be alert for a new avenue of service.
  - b. Don't necessarily expect a vision. (Paul was an apostle and a prophet.)
  - c. Pursue the open door until God shuts it.

### B. The Process of Salvation. Acts 16:11-15

1. Human Effort. Acts 16:11-13
  - a. Journey to Philippi. 16:11-12
  - b. The Team's Strategy. 16:13

2. Observations...
  - a. When God opens a door, it still requires hard work and human effort to walk through it.
  - b. There is no excuse for being a lazy Christian.
  - c. Hard work is not enough. You need a good strategy.
  - d. Plan your work and work your plan.
3. Divine Preparation. Acts 16:14
  - a. The Team's Prospect.
  - b. God's Initiative.
4. Observations...
  - a. Sometimes God's answers to prayer are remarkably different than ours!
  - b. God puts the right people in place to accomplish HIS plans.
  - c. When someone responds to Jesus, it is because God has worked in his (her) heart.
5. Human Response. Acts 16:15
  - a. Lydia's Response
    - 1) Baptism
    - 2) Invitation
  - b. The Team's Acceptance
6. Observations: We are saved to serve!

Nutshell: Keep serving Jesus while you search for the open door!

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### A. Closed Doors and an Open Door. Acts 16:6-10

1. Closed Doors. A \_\_\_\_\_ trip. Acts 16:6-8
2. Observations...
  - a. Sometimes God \_\_\_\_\_ doors of ministry.
  - b. This can be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. Don't \_\_\_\_\_. Keep trying to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - d. You can't \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ car!
3. Open Door. A new direction. Acts 16:9-10
  - a. Night-Time \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. Man of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. Decision to \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Observations...
  - a. Be alert for a \_\_\_\_\_ avenue of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. Don't necessarily expect a \_\_\_\_\_. (Paul was an \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_.)
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ the open door until God \_\_\_\_\_ it.

### B. The Process of Salvation. Acts 16:11-15

1. Human Effort. Acts 16:11-13
  - a. Journey to \_\_\_\_\_, 16:11-12
  - b. The Team's \_\_\_\_\_, 16:13

### 2. Observations...

- a. When God opens a door, it still requires hard \_\_\_\_\_ and human \_\_\_\_\_ to walk through it.
- b. There is no excuse for being a \_\_\_\_\_ Christian.
- c. Hard work is not enough. You need a good \_\_\_\_\_.
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ your work and \_\_\_\_\_ your plan.

### 3. Divine Preparation. Acts 16:14

- a. The Team's \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. God's \_\_\_\_\_.

### 4. Observations...

- a. Sometimes God's answers to prayer are remarkably \_\_\_\_\_ than ours!
- b. God puts the right people in place to accomplish HIS \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. When someone responds to Jesus, it is because God has \_\_\_\_\_ in his (her) heart.

### 5. Human Response. Acts 16:15

#### a. Lydia's Response

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_

#### b. The Team's Acceptance

### 6. Observations: We are \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_!

Nutshell: Keep \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus while you \_\_\_\_\_ for the open door!