

A LOVE THAT PERSEVERES

Pray through closed doors.
Sing through locked doors.

Acts 16



BIG IDEA

God opens doors for his mission through people who keep praying and keep singing.

Closed doors do not mean God is absent.

They may be the beginning of God's next open door.

ACTS 16 MOVEMENT



God keeps moving the mission forward.

POINT 1

1 Pray Through Closed Doors

Stay available.

Perseverance is not forcing the door God closed.

It is trusting God enough to walk through the door He opens.

Acts 16:1-5

1 Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer but whose father was a Greek. 2 The believers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. 3 Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

Acts 16:6-10

6 Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. 7 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.

Acts 16:9-10

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.

GOD REDIRECTS



**A closed door is not always failure.
Sometimes it is guidance.**

From “They” to “We”

Acts 16:10

“...we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia...”

At some point, the mission cannot stay “they should.” — It becomes “we will.”

Acts 16:12-15

12 From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days. 13 On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer...14 One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.

Acts 16:12-15

15 When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

LYDIA

Open Heart. Open Home.

The Lord opened her heart.

**Sometimes God closes a
door to open a person.**



**Quiet with God.
Available for mission.**

Solitude is not escape from the mission.

**It is where we learn to hear
the God who redirects the mission.**

POINT 1

1

**Where is God asking me
to stay AVAILABLE?**



2 Sing Through Locked Doors

Stay faithful.

**The prisoners heard their songs
before they saw their freedom.**

Acts 16:16-18

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 for her owners by fortune-telling. 17 She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved."

Acts 16:18-19

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. 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.

Acts 16:20-22

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.

Acts 16:23-25

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. 25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.

Acts 16:26-28

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!"

Acts 16:29-34

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.

Acts 16:29-34

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

**About midnight
Paul and Silas
were praying
and singing
hymns...**

**The other prisoners
were listening.**



THE SURPRISE

**The miracle was not only
that the doors opened.**

The miracle was that Paul and Silas stayed.

Persevering love does not only ask, “How can I get out?”
It asks, “Who might God save if I stay faithful?”

RESPONSE

**Lord, what door are you
opening through my
perseverance?**

Daily solitude

Serving the body

Opening my home

Giving to missions

Helping someone know Jesus



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