

## Walking In The Way Of Jesus; **When God Says, No or Don't** Considering the path from the tomb to the world

### Last lesson, **Action Steps of Obedience Creates Direction**

These new believers, apprentices, were active and moving in their faith and with their faith.

These men and women were serving, active, and moving.

We talked about how we respond to God:

- Willful defiance
- Willful obedience

### **Obedience is the greatest path of receiving direction from God.**

Acts 16:6-10 NKJV

*<sup>6</sup> Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. <sup>7</sup> After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit (the Spirit of Jesus) did not permit them. <sup>8</sup> So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. <sup>9</sup> And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." <sup>10</sup> Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.*

These men trusted and obeyed the voice and direction of the Holy Spirit.

**They did not see the concepts of "No", "Don't", or "Stop" as negative terms but rather positive terms of God's provision and plan for them and the gospel mission.**

The promptings and direction through the "No" or "Don't" seemed to come as a surprise because to the plans that were made on behalf of the mission to spread the good news of Jesus as Messiah.

**They may have been surprised but they did not view "No", "Don't", or "Stop" as a personal rejection or failure!**

God says "No" in various ways throughout the Bible. One example is in 2 Corinthians 12:8-9 (ESV) where the apostle Paul describes praying to God three times to remove a thorn in his flesh, but God responds by saying, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

In the Old Testament, we see God telling King David "No" in 1 Chronicles 17:4-5 (ESV) when David expresses his desire to build a house for God, and God responds through the prophet Nathan, saying that David will not build the house but his son will.

God may also tell someone "No" in response to their prayers or desires if it is contrary to His will or not in their best interest.

It's important to remember that God's "No" is for our ultimate good. He sees the bigger picture and knows what is best for us.

**God's "No" is not a rejection or failure but rather a step of faith toward His provision for a greater plan for our lives.**

**There is absolutely no substitute for personal relationship with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and the process of building personal trust in them.**

**Once again, we must address the fear of losing control which most of us seem to cherish the most.**

As we read and study this morning, I am asking you to consider a relationship with God that most of us have not experienced up to this point in our lives.

*AW Tozer: "We may as well face it: the whole level of spirituality among us is low. We have measured ourselves by ourselves until the incentive to seek higher plateaus in the things of the Spirit is all but gone (We) have imitated the world, sought popular favor, manufactured delights to substitute for the joy of the Lord and produced a cheap and synthetic power to substitute for the power of the Holy Ghost."*

**There is absolutely no substitute for personal relationship with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and the process of building personal trust in them.**

Acts 16:11-24 NKJV

*<sup>11</sup> Therefore, sailing from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and the next day came to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup> and from there to Philippi, which is the foremost city of that part of Macedonia, a colony. And we were staying in that city for some days. <sup>13</sup> And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there. <sup>14</sup> Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. <sup>15</sup> And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us.*

*<sup>16</sup> Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup> This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." <sup>18</sup> And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. <sup>19</sup> But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities.*

*<sup>20</sup> And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; <sup>21</sup> and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe." <sup>22</sup> Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup> And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them*

*securely. <sup>24</sup> Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.*

Read the remainder of this account to be blown away by the miraculous intervention, provision, and redemption in 16:25-40.

**Look at the incredible things that happened because they trusted and obeyed the leading of the Holy Spirit.**

### **Supernatural Provision**

**Attitude** expectation of “trust and obedience”

**Action** expression of “trusting and obeying”

Because these men were learning to trust God, they were willing to obey His Spirit.

**Once more, I want to say that they did not see the concepts of “No”, “Don’t”, or “Stop” as negative terms but rather positive terms of God’s provision and plan for them and the gospel mission.**

*I sense that there are certain aspects of this process such as faith/belief, change, desire, understanding, learning, and training.*

*I believe most of us fall short in the training component of our lives.*

**Training often determines the trajectory of your potential whether spiritual, physical, or emotional!**

1 Timothy 4:1,2 & 6-10 NLT

*Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons. <sup>2</sup> These people are hypocrites and liars, and their consciences are dead.*

*<sup>6</sup> If you explain these things to the brothers and sisters, Timothy, you will be a worthy servant of Christ Jesus, one who is nourished by the message of faith and the good teaching you have followed. <sup>7</sup> **Do not waste time arguing over godless ideas and old wives’ tales. Instead, train yourself to be godly.** <sup>8</sup> **“Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come.”** <sup>9</sup> **This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it.** <sup>10</sup> **This is why we work hard and continue to struggle, for our hope is in the living God, who is the Savior of all people and particularly of all believers.***

Godliness is piety, respect, and reverence towards God.

**Knowing Father God through Jesus by the Holy Spirit builds trust that creates respect and reverence.**

**Physical training is purposeful, productive pain that propels a person into top physical fitness.**

**Spiritual training is purposeful, productive discomfort that propels a person into higher plateaus of the Spirit.**

Is consistent physical exercise worth the investment?

Is consistent spiritual exercise worth the investment?

Typically, you only get a return based on your investment.

“Self-discipline is the ability to make yourself do what you should do, when you should do it, whether you feel like it or not.”

- *Elbert Hubbard*

Prayer:

“Lord, I want You to be what I desire most in this world. I want to fully surrender my life to the Holy Spirit. Help me to yield to You. Reveal areas in my life that need to change and I need Your transforming help. I give you every area of my life. Help me to yield control. Help me to trust You as The One True Amazing God. I dedicate myself to training and learning to trust You and obey what You say. Father, please help me to follow my Lord Jesus and listen to the voice of Your Holy Spirit.”

**We must spend time with God and learn to trust Him so that we do not see the concepts of “No”, “Don’t”, or “Stop” as negative terms but rather positive terms of God’s provision and plan for us and the gospel mission of His church.**