Maturing and Being Led by the Holy Ghost

Acts 16:6 Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,

7 After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.

8 And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas.

9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.

10 And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

11 Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next day to Neapolis;

1. (v.6)“**forbidden** of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia”
2. (v.7)“they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit **suffered** them not”
3. (v.9) “And **a vision appeared** to Paul in the night”

What happened to Paul was a most interesting experience. It stands as a challenge for Christian believers of every generation.

The leadership of the Holy Ghost step by step. Note three striking points.

1.  Paul finished his mission of revisiting all the churches ([Acts 15:36](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+15%3A36), [41](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+15%3A41); [Acts 16:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+16%3A1), [6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+16%3A6)). Apparently, he was staying in Antioch of Pisidia, deciding just where he should launch a *new* mission thrust.

2.  The Holy Spirit forbade Paul to go westward into the Roman province of Asia (not modern Asia, but Turkey). The seven churches mentioned in the Book of Revelation, including the great city of Ephesus, lay in Roman Asia ([Rev. 2:1-3:22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+2%3A1-3%3A22)). The picture to note is this: sitting there in Antioch of Pisidia, Paul was desiring and planning to penetrate Asia for Christ. But the Holy Spirit *restrained* him, *forbidding* him to go westward into Asia.

3.  The Holy Spirit forbade Paul to undertake a northern mission. Therefore, Paul and his two companions (Silas and Timothy) left Antioch of Pisidia and headed northward toward Bithynia. When they reached the area of Mysia, the Spirit told them not to go any farther north. So Paul turned and went in the only direction he could—toward Troas, a city which lay close by the sea.

4.  The Holy Ghost led step by step through *restraint*. The Spirit did not come right out and tell Paul what he was to do. Rather the Holy Ghost closed doors, restrained and pulled at Paul's heart to move in a different direction than where he was heading. Very simply, the Holy Spirit stopped Paul from following through with the plans he was making.

Note these facts.

a.  Paul's plans were important. The great cities of Asia needed to be reached for Christ.

b.  Paul's timing was off. The great cities of Asia would be reached for Christ by Paul, but it would be out in the future, not then.

c.  Paul was not given a reason for the rejection of his plans. The doors were merely closed by the Spirit. In fact, they were all closed until Paul could go in only one direction.

d.  Only God knew the reason why Paul was not yet to undertake the mission into Asia. There may have been others witnessing in the area and God was using their witness to (prepare) the people, or perhaps the people were just not ready for the gospel, or perhaps some potential opposition had to be removed first. The reasons could go on and on. The point to see is that God knows best.

He knows the whole situation.

We must always trust God's leadership, the closing of doors as well as the opening of doors.

⇒  The Spirit forbade the mission to Asia ([Acts 16:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+16%3A6)).

⇒  The Spirit suffered not to go the mission to Bithynia ([Acts 16:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+16%3A7)).

⇒  Paul journeyed to Troas ([Acts 16:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+16%3A8)).

⇒  the Spirit gave a vision of the man in Macedonia ([Acts 16:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+16%3A9)). Paul took a "straight course" to the Spirit's call ([Acts 16:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+16%3A11)).

**"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you" (**[**John 14:16-17**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+14%3A16-17)**)**

**"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come" (**[**John 16:13**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+16%3A13)**).**

**"But ye shall receive power, after that Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (**[**Acts 1:8**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+1%3A8)**).**

**"And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing" (**[**Acts 8:39**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+8%3A39)**).**

**"While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee. Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them" (**[**Acts 10:19-20**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+10%3A19-20)**).**

**"For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death" (**[**Psalm 48:14**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+48%3A14)**).**

**"Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory" (**[**Psalm 73:24**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+73%3A24)**).**

**"And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left" (**[**Isaiah 30:21**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+30%3A21)**).**

1. **The Will of God**
   1. **Is revealed through a vision (the call came through a vision)**
   2. **Was acted upon with commitment**
   3. **With Strong Convictions**
2. **Obedience**
   1. **Faithfully attend to the admonition of God's word and His providence and you will not fall into dangerous error.**
   2. **You can make it through the dangerous places following carefully.**
3. **The Will of God will take you on a Mission but only as you mature in your life.**

Song 4:8 Come with me from Lebanon, my spouse, with me from Lebanon: look from the top of Amana, from the top of Shenir and Hermon, from the lions' dens, from the mountains of the leopards.

A call from Him, “come with Me”—“with Me”—“from”

1. “Come with me from Lebanon, my spouse”
   1. “Come with me from Lebanon, my spouse, with me from Lebanon:”—
2. “look from the top of Amana”—
3. “from the top of Shenir”—
4. “ Hermon”—

Christ calls His faithful from all the corners of the world to love Him and to Love Truth.

A better vision

A view of the land from the top of (Amana, Shenir, Mount Hermon) 4:8

Here begins a new representation, The bride is addressed as "spouse"

4:8,9,10,11,12

Song 4:12 A garden inclosed—(Separation) is my sister, my spouse;

a spring shut up— (Secrecy) I Cor.2:9-10; Rev. 2:17

a fountain sealed—(Safety)

13 Thy plants are **an orchard** of pomegranates, with pleasant fruits; camphire, with spikenard,

14 Spikenard and saffron; calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense; myrrh and aloes, with all the chief spices:

15 **A fountain** of gardens, **a well** of living waters, and **streams** from Lebanon.

16 Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon **my garden**, that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into **his garden**, and eat his pleasant fruits.

Song 5:1 I am come into my garden, my sister, my spouse: I have gathered my myrrh with my spice; I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my wine with my milk: eat, O friends; drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved. (The Bridegroom identifies the Bride)

“My Garden”—Beautiful, fruitful and fragrant, likened unto the fullness of the Spirit, all the fruits of the Spirit…life, everywhere you go looking like Him

1. Planting
   1. Seed of the Word—seed from Him planted in you.
   2. Seed of the Fruit of the Spirit—seed from the Holy Ghost dwelling in you.
   3. Seed from a Harvest of Souls filled with the Holy Ghost
2. Harvesting
   1. Harvesting the Fruit of the Spirit
   2. Harvesting Souls
      1. We don’t want to just win then lose souls we want see them grow, rooted and grounded and producing
   3. Harvesting Truth
3. Becoming like Him
   1. Christ is the Pattern
      1. Peter James John and Paul(we)are examples
      2. The Holy Ghost is the Guide
      3. The Word of God is the seed
   2. Our lives (whole inner being) must show forth the life of Jesus
      1. Manifest His presence in true Worship
      2. Manifest the Truth as a good Soldier
      3. Manifesting His life in our whole walk