

HOW DOES GOD GIVE US DIRECTION? *Acts 15:36-16:10*

The baseline truth: God gives us direction first and foremost through the principles found in the _____

- I. GOD EXPECTS US TO USE BIBLICALLY BASED _____ TO MAKE THE BEST DECISION WE CAN
 - A. Some believe that _____ caused the rift with Barnabas by deciding on his own to revisit the churches
 - B. But God set apart Paul & Barnabas to evangelize the Gentiles and He had never rescinded that _____
 - 1) Paul made a rational _____ based on his understanding of God's will to continue to obey the call
 - 2) "Visit" in 15:36 is related to the word "elder" in the NT: Paul was exercising spiritual _____
 - 3) God directing us is often not a mysterious process; it just involves hard _____ based on Scripture
- II. GOD CONTINUES TO DIRECT US EVEN WHEN WE TAKE _____
 - A. They split because Paul was focused on his _____ but Barnabas wanted to give Mark a 2nd chance
 - B. Luke wisely assigned _____ to neither of them; but the 2 great missionaries no longer cooperated
 - 1) Luke emphasized the positive: where there had been one missionary team, now there were _____
 - 2) We all take missteps and make wrong decisions, but if we belong to Jesus, yield to Him and seek His will, then He is going to continue to direct us, bless us and _____ us!
- III. GOD DIRECTS OUR LIVES THROUGH THE _____ WE ENCOUNTER
 - A. Paul probably led Timothy to Christ during his first missionary campaign; he called Timothy his _____
 - B. Timothy had a Jewish mother who taught him the OT & a Gentile father who did not _____ him
 - C. Timothy had grown tremendously since his conversion and Paul asked him to _____ their mission team
 - D. God often directs us through the persons He brings into our lives and how He _____ through them
- IV. GOD DIRECTS US THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO _____ US
 - A. Paul went west through Derbe, Lystra, Iconium & Antioch to strengthen the _____ he had planted
 - B. Then Paul wanted to reach new territory for Christ further to the _____, most probably in Ephesus
 - 1) In 16:6 the Holy Spirit said _____ to this direction, but we don't know how the Spirit communicated it
 - 2) So Paul turned north to Mysia; then he wanted to go the east to Bithynia; again the Spirit said _____
 - 3) 16:7 (ESV) says, "The Spirit of Jesus did not allow them." How does the Spirit of Jesus lead us?
 - a) The Holy Spirit directs us when we are _____; it is impossible to steer a parked car!
 - b) We will hear the voice of the Holy Spirit only if we are _____, when we are yielded & seeking
- V. GOD OFTEN DIRECTS US THROUGH THE _____ OF OTHER BELIEVERS
 - A. Paul could go neither west nor east; then he had a _____ calling him north to Macedonia in Europe
 - B. Paul did _____ immediately conclude from this dream that his mission team was to go to Macedonia
 - C. "Concluded" in 16:10 implies a meeting of the _____ or the idea that they put things together mentally
 - D. Even though Paul was an apostle leading the team, he yet sought _____ from other Christians