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## SERMON OUTLINE

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### Getting Guidance from God

Acts 16:1-10

#### I. Applying God's unique wisdom (Acts 16:1-5)

- A. Wisdom about adding a co-worker (1-2)
  - 1. A good reputation (1 Tim. 3:2, 7).
  - 2. Maturity, not age, is the issue (2 Tim. 4:12)
- B. Wisdom about circumcising Timothy (3)
  - Discernment: Paul circumcised Timothy (1 Cor. 9:19-23), but not Titus (Gal. 2:3).
- C. The results of Paul's wise ministry decisions (4-5)
  - 1. They communicated the Jerusalem decision (4).
  - 2. The churches grew stronger and larger (5).

#### II. Receiving God's specific direction (Acts 16: 6-10)

- A. The Spirit prevented Paul and Silas from preaching some places, so they went somewhere else (6-8).
  - 1. God's Sovereignty: God uses "close doors" to direct us to other opportunities He opens.
  - 2. Submission: Direction from God requires a humble spirit to accept when God says no.
- B. God used a vision to tell Paul to go to Macedonia to preach the gospel (9-10).

#### **Seeking God's specific will**

- 1. Make it your goal to please God in response to His grace (Romans 12:1-2).
- 2. Consistently obey God letting him transform you (Romans 12:2; Proverbs 3:5-6).
- 3. Pray for wisdom (Proverbs 2:6; James 1:5).
- 4. Seek God's Word about His principles and our motives (Psalm 119:105; Hebrews 4:12).
- 5. Be sensitive to God's sovereignty and have the humility to accept "closed doors" (Acts 16:6-10).
- 6. Seek and heed counsel (Proverbs 12:15; Ephesians 5:21).
- 7. Submit to spiritual leaders, realizing God uses them (1 Corinthians 16:16; Hebrews 13:17; Acts 15:22, 28).

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Open Door Bible Church 5-5-13

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