

**I. Paul Birth's A New Spiritual Son**

- a. Timothy received salvation when Paul visited Lystra on the 1<sup>st</sup> missionary journey.
- b. Disciples are made through teaching, journeying, and sacrificing.
  1. Timothy witnessed Paul's sufferings in Lystra. (2 Tim 3:10-11)
  2. Paul believed that Timothy had proven himself worthy of Christian service. (Phil 2:19-23)
  3. Timothy later ministered as a special ambassador to Corinth and became the shepherd of the church at Ephesus. Is every Christian a disciple?
  4. Timothy was circumcised because he would be working with both Jews and Gentiles in the churches. (1 Cor 9:19-23)
- c. Mature Christians should "adopt" spiritual sons/daughters. We should disciple those around us.

**II. The Holy Spirit Provides New Vision Direction**

- a. The Holy Spirit stopped Paul from travelling to the East, instead guided him to the West.
- b. While moving westward, Paul received a vision: a man of Macedonia.
- c. "Immediately" Paul sought to go to Macedonia. Procrastination is the enemy of obedience.
- d. In that one decision Christianity moved west. Our own Christian life was wrapped up in Paul's obedience. Peter later ministered in the East. (1 Pet 1:1)

**III. New Christians From New and Unlikely Places**

- a. A religious woman with an open (tender) heart (vv.13-15)
  1. Lydia was saved and baptized along with her household (family and slaves).
  2. New Gentile converts being baptized is evidence of the Great Commission.
  3. Lydia allowed Paul to use her house for teaching and as a base of operation.
- b. A slave girl with a possessed (tormented) heart (vv. 16-18)
  1. Satan is **always** in opposition to the work of the Lord.
  2. The enemy came using flattery appearing to promote Paul's work. (2 Cor 11:13-15) Paul silenced the demon by speaking the name of Jesus Christ.
- c. A man with a hard (tough) heart (vv.19-40)
  1. Roman jailer had no sympathy for man or interest in Christ
  2. Paul and Silas were beaten and chained, but they praised God (*By the day the Lord commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life (Psalm 42:8)*)
- d. Praises went up and the blessings came down
  1. The prison began to shake, chains were loosed, and the doors were opened.
  2. Paul stops the jailer from killing himself.
  3. The jailer and all his family received salvation and were baptized.
- e. The anchors of the Church at Philippi: a wealthy woman, a slave girl, and a Roman jailer

**IV. Thoughts and Considerations for Action**

- a. God uses personal pleas to call you to your task. (clear and understandable)
- b. We can never imagine the impact of our "yes" to God's call.
- c. The Holy Spirit's guidance was conveyed by prophetic utterance, inward prompting, or the overruling of external circumstances.
- d. We are not promised freedom from opposition, but we are promised ultimate protection.(Acts 18:10)