

## A "Go with God" Moment

by: Dave Smith



... you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. - 1 Peter 2:5

An eternity ago (meaning, before Spring Break and the pre-registration rush) I wrote about discerning God's voice/Spirit. We looked specifically at the start of Paul's first and second Missionary Journeys in Acts 13 and Acts 15. In summary, Acts 13 is saturated with the power and presence of the Holy Spirit especially with the Holy Spirit speaking in an audible voice to all the participants. Then we examined Acts 15 and the launch of the Second Journey which was contrasting filled with human language, with Paul simply saying to Barnabas, as,

Let us return and visit the brethren in every city in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are. (Act 15:36)

What are we to make of this absence of Spirit language, no prayer, and no fasting, just Paul's verbalized plan to his missionary partner?

Our place of inquiry today comes from Act 16:6-10.

Next Paul and Silas traveled through the area of Phrygia and Galatia, because the Holy Spirit had prevented them from preaching the word in the province of Asia at that time. Then coming to the borders of Mysia, they headed north for the province of Bithynia, but again the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them to go there. So instead, they went on through Mysia to the seaport of Troas. That night Paul had a vision: A man from Macedonia in northern Greece was standing there, pleading with him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us!" So we decided to leave for Macedonia at once, having concluded that God was calling us to preach the Good News there.

For some folks, this might be such a refreshing passage of scripture, knowing that the Apostle Paul himself wrestled with what we are talking about, "How to know the mind and plan of God." Luke interjects two revealing phrases here;

- the Holy Spirit prevented them from preaching the word
- the Spirit of Jesus did not allow to go there.

May I simply summarize this passage with a leaning towards application?

**First**, *God often does not consult with us regarding any change in the scope of His plan for our lives.* To be "called" is essentially saying, "Yes" to Jesus, with no stipulations. One problem we often encounter is that we think there will be a level of consistency in the "coming of the Kingdom." But God has every right to alter our path at any given moment. This is just such a moment in Paul's calling to the gentiles. Paul was working the plan as he understood it; preaching and encouraging the brothers in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey). But God had something different on His mind this passage is discussing how God hits the reset button for Paul's Second Journey.

**Second**, *the way God conveys His will to us can vary just as much as the scope of the plan itself.* The Lord can and does tell us directly what to do. Yet in this instance, the Lord simply *prohibits* Paul and Silas from what up to this point has been a normal faith-following pattern; preaching and encouraging the brothers. Practically speaking, though this may seem disturbing in real life, it's a wonderful way for God to prepare Paul (and us) that change is in the air. But I promise you that when the Holy Spirit puts a stop to the familiar, it will feel as if you are forced into God's waiting room (or maybe it will seem more like the divine doghouse). Either way, God is using this time to shape us for something far more appealing than what we presently possess (and I promise it will be profoundly more fulfilling.)

Maybe a lesson for today might be watch for the divine prohibitions...for they are not acts of judgment

### Quick Links



Weekly Menu  
<http://wildcat.indwes.edu/Baldwin/>



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but grace for the future. Second, please do not take the path of least resistance in your life of faith. For those decisions would indeed be your choices and not God's. If you do, you may find yourself in the end living a life of regrets. Finally, I also assume that we need those waiting-room times so the comfort of today's normalcy will begin to taste just a bit sour in our mouths. Then, when Jesus' new plan or vision is revealed, we will resound with the words of the Psalmist, "How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!"

(Ps119:103)

Some of you today are waiting. I do not know how long Paul and Silas were "prevented" from proclaiming the Word to the Gentiles, but I am certain that for them it seemed like an eternity. Similarly, you think it is taking God forever to open up the next step for your life. And the words, "the Holy Spirit prevented" sounds so "trial-like". But in the end, Paul's work and writings in Thessalonica, Ephesus, Corinth, and Rome are all fruit which arises from this experience. What would we be like if we had not been impacted by the Paul who was prevented? May I close with this question, "What will you be like when the crucible of today is lifted and you are re-shaped in His image and refocused on a plan brighter than you ever imagined?"

**Lord,**

May we wait without fear.

May we realize that Your temptation and Gethsemane were faith building events for you.

May we see Your prohibition as a gift and not a penalty.

May we be molded by You, our divine Potter.

May we in the end sing praises to Your name.

**Amen.**

Now, **Go with God.**

*Dave Smith*

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Wesleyan Job Postings  
<http://www.wesleyan.org/doc/employment>



GPA Calculator  
[http://www.image-ination.com/test\\_maker/gpa.html](http://www.image-ination.com/test_maker/gpa.html)



Go with God Moment  
<http://go-with-god.blogspot.com/>

**Last Week's Trivia  
Winner:  
Dani Wolowec**

**Trivia**

What is the main point of today's Go with God Moment?

Be the first to email the correct answer to  
[melissa.fipps@indwes.edu](mailto:melissa.fipps@indwes.edu)  
for a small treat or prize.

**Previous Winners:  
Tori Tenniswood Joe Kuehner,  
Chuck Zimmerman, Rachel  
Smith, Abby Ill, Vanessa  
Small**

## Upcoming Events and Important Announcements



**On Saturday, April 10th, Viva Voce** will be hosting an exciting opportunity called, "**Break the Chains of Human Trafficking**". The event will be held downtown Marion to raise awareness for human trafficking. We will be hosting various anti-trafficking organizations to set up booths to increase awareness of trafficking. If you want to know more about the event, please go to: <http://www.breakthechainsmarion.org/>

Every student, faculty and member of the Marion community can do their part to eliminate human trafficking! Viva Voce's hope is to provide students with ways they can take action against human trafficking according to their special gifts and talents.



**NITROGEN: A Church Planting Recruiting Experience**

**Friday, April 30, 2010 5:00 - 10:00 pm &**

**Saturday, May 1, 2010 7:30 am - 4:00 pm**

(Optional Worship Service Experiences Saturday Night and Sunday Morning)

Scholarships available for this event

**If you are interested in this opportunity, contact [melissa.fipps@indwes.edu](mailto:melissa.fipps@indwes.edu) with your advisor's name.**



**Sticky Notes - Thursdays at 5 pm in the Bistro.**

**March 25 - Steve Lennox and Steve Horst**

**PHL 430 Advanced Topics in Philosophy -- C.S. Lewis**

**Fall, M-W-F at 2:20**

**Taught by Scott Burson**

**\* For non-Wesleyan students who do not need to take a history/polity course, this course can count as the additional three-hour elective in philosophy/theology/church history.**



A study in the philosophy and theology of Christian writer C.S. Lewis. This course will examine Lewis's views on topics such as salvation, holiness, the nature of God, sovereignty and free will, revelation, miracles, afterlife, and reasons for belief.

Special attention will be given to the relationship between Lewis's theological beliefs and his articulation of the Christian faith. Lewis's on-going relevance in light of Postmodernity, the Emergent movement, and other contemporary cultural currents will be explored.

*This is a fun course. We read a blend of Lewis's fiction and non-fiction, including *The Great Divorce*, *The Abolition of Man*, *The Screwtape Letters*, *Miracles*, *The Chronicles of Narnia* (portions), *The Problem of Pain*, and *A Grief Observed*. Contact [scott.burson@indwes.edu](mailto:scott.burson@indwes.edu) with any questions or for more information.*

\*\*This course covers a specialized and advanced topic in philosophy that is not covered in the normal curriculum. It is always offered with a subheading and is repeatable under a different subheading up to 12 hours. **Prerequisite:** PHL-180\*\*

**Where did the Ministry Opportunities Go?**

They are attached to this email as a pdf document and can also be found on our website (as always):

<http://cas.indwes.edu/Academic-Divisions/Religion-Philosophy/ministry/>

**School of Theology and Ministry**

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