

**Forbidden by the Spirit**  
**Acts 16:1-15**

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**I. Timothy was circumcised. Acts 16:1-3**

In **Acts 14**, we learned Timothy was a young disciple who lived in Lystra, and here we see that he was already \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord there. Notice, "**He was well spoken of by the brethren.**"

- Paul asked Timothy to be circumcised to remove any potential \_\_\_\_\_ barriers while spreading the Gospel in the Jewish communities. **1 Corinthians 9:19-22**

Timothy's being circumcised was a \_\_\_\_\_ act to remove stumbling blocks in spreading the Gospel between different cultures.

**II. The growth of the Church. Acts 16:4-5**

Individual churches grow strong as their members are healthy, having intimate daily interactions with Jesus through \_\_\_\_\_ devotion, prayer, and Bible study.

- We share community, faith, and worship as we experience personal growth, hope, and \_\_\_\_\_ from one another.

**III. Called to Macedonia. Acts 16:6-10**

We often forget that the Lord is sovereign and the Holy Spirit can orchestrate the events and \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives to give us opportunities to proclaim His goodness to others.

- After Paul was forbidden by the Holy Spirit from going to Asia Minor, he \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord, and then he received a vision from a man pleading with him to go to Macedonia.

Ask questions like: "*Is this **decision** consistent with God's Word? Does it glorify Him? Does it bring peace?*" **James 1:5**

**IV. Lydia. Acts 16:11-15**

There is no record of the Gospel ever being preached by Paul at Thyatira. Most commentators believe that \_\_\_\_\_ brought the Gospel message with her as she traveled there for business. **John 12:32**

- The gift of hospitality shows genuine love and concern for the needs of other people, desiring to make people feel loved and comfortable, promoting \_\_\_\_\_ fellowship and connection.

**V. Practical Application.**

1. The Lord's \_\_\_\_\_, determined, or sovereign will.
2. The Lord's \_\_\_\_\_ will. **Romans 8:28-29**

**Small Group Discussion**

*Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?*

1. Read **Acts 16:1-3**. Why did Paul have Timothy circumcised? Was he giving in to the circumcision Laws? **In verse 2**, what was Timothy known for in Lystra?  
**2 Timothy 1:5, 1 Corinthians 9:19-22, Colossians 2:11, Philippians 3:3, Galatians 6:15**
2. Read **Acts 16:4-5**. According to the sermon, how can you individually strengthen the church?  
**Acts 2:47, 1 Corinthians 7:35, Psalm 143:8, Philippians 4:6-8, 1 Timothy 4:13**
3. Read **Acts 16:6-10**. Why would the Holy Spirit prevent them from going to Asia Minor? Does God not want the Gospel preached everywhere? What methods might the Holy Spirit have used to forbid them from going there? What did the Holy Spirit want them to do instead?  
**John 16:13, Psalm 143:10, Romans 8:14**
4. Has the Holy Spirit ever prevented you from doing something or going somewhere? How did you respond? If the Holy Spirit blocked your plans, how would you feel?  
**1 Thessalonians 5:19, Galatians 5:16, Ephesians 4:30, James 1:5**
5. Read **Acts 16:11-15**. How was Lydia's heart opened to heed the things of the Lord? How can a person today heed the things of the Lord? What was Lydia known for in Philippi and Thyatira?  
**John 6:44, John 12:32, Romans 12:10-13**
6. Discuss the Practical Application of the Sermon and discuss how we can know God's will for our lives.  
**Romans 12:1-2, Psalm 115:3, Romans 8:28-29, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**