

Power of Holy Spirit (Acts 16:6-15)

Christians can say: “Jesus is Lord,” only through the Holy Spirit who resides in us and guides our life. After the decision of the council in Jerusalem (letter to gentile believers to clarify meaning of Gospel), Paul and Barnabas were sent on a second mission trip.

Disagreement Paul and Barnabas (Difference in Us) - on choosing their co-worker and broke apart. **“Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the believers to the grace of the Lord (Acts 15:37 - 40) Both Paul and Barnabas were great apostles and could have had their disagreement because no one is perfect. But God uses our weaknesses to expand the kingdom of heaven.**

Difference between God and us **“Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us. After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. (Acts 16:6-10) God’s plan was different with Paul. God wanted Paul to leave for Macedonia to preach the Gospel in Europe while Paul planned to go to province of Asia. Paul changed direction after he saw the vision of Holy Spirit - Spirit of Jesus - because he experienced God. Faith is relying on God regardless of our own thoughts or surroundings. Guidance by Holy Spirit is very important for us. **“By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. (Hebrews 11:8)****

God allows future to be hidden - after a few steps. Why?

1. We might not follow it if we know it in advance.
2. God wants to give us will to choose the true obedience of blessing (absolute/complete obedience to God independent of situation)

Two important things in faith

1. Understanding the Bible: We could shake off own greed, ambition and temptation when we understand word of God continuously.
2. The guidance of Holy Spirit: it is written as paraclete (counselor) in the bible. It means God be with us to help us all the time. Holy Spirit is same counselor as Jesus who resides in us to help us. Jesus accomplished on the cross for us, Holy Spirit who always resides in us guides us with grace of Jesus.

Therefore, Jesus and Holy Spirit are God and cannot be separated. Whoever believe in Jesus should depends on Holy Spirit, whoever seek power of Holy Spirit should seek in Jesus.

The Cross of Christ is the starting point of Faith but to experience

The Grace of God, to gain power more abundantly, we should rely on

The Holy Spirit and go into the bible more to get wisdom and ability. When we believe in Jesus, we will be received power, bear the fruit of Holy Spirit not worldly power and will experience amazing things **“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8).**

Power of Holy Spirit - in Philippi (Acts 16:16-20) When Paul and Silas went to a place of prayer, they met a woman who predicted the future by/with evil spirit. They then let it out of her in the name of Jesus. Then her owner realized the hope of making money was gone, thereafter dragged Paul and Silas into the authorities. **“They brought them before the magistrates and said, “These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar...The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.(Acts 16:22-25)**

We can see the Power of Spirit here:

1. Conversion to the best - situation/environment from the worst (Paul and Silas felt God was with them)
2. Gospel will bring forth miracles and reveal the powers of heaven. **“Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose. (Acts 16:26)**
3. Power of God save us.

When Paul and Silas prayed and praised, the jailer and his family were saved **“The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here! “The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” (Acts 16:27-30).** Jailer opened his eyes to see kingdom of heaven through it. We would have same situation too. Through facing our suffering, we could experience power of God. **“They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household. (Acts 16:31)** This answer is not only for jailer but also for all of us.

We can/will find “Light in our life” and solve our problems when we come to Jesus - who is truly “The Good News”, who saved us, gives us hope from despair because he is The Son of God, The True Savior.