



ACTS OF GOD

God's First churches

YES, NO & MAYBE:

1. I do not wait for opportunities, I find them.
2. The reason why the church is not more successful is because we have not taken every opportunity available.
3. God does not want you to do all of the good things that you can.
4. God does not want us to take the Good News into all of the world right now.
5. God can only connect you with the *best* things in life if you stop trying to do all the *right* things.

NOTES:

DIG DEEPER:

∅ Have you ever felt like a spiritual opportunity was lost for one of your friends, family, or community members? What roadblocks got in the way? What could have been done differently?

§ READ Acts 16:6-10 (NIV)

6 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. 7 When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. 8 So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. 9 During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 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.

∅ (6) "having been kept," (7) "would not allow" - [κωλυθέντες ὑπὸ ...καὶ οὐκ εἶασεν - kolythentes hypo...kai ouk eiasen] These phrases mean, "to hinder; to keep something from happening/to not allow."

‡ Are there times when God does NOT allow, or hinders, good things from happening? What has been your experience?

∅ Why do you think the Holy Spirit kept Paul and his companions from preaching the word in Asia? Why would He do that? Didn't Jesus command his apostles to go into ALL the world?

‡ Are there certain places where God may not want us to take the Gospel today? Why?



THE BIBLE LAB

NOTES:

DIG DEEPER...continued:

o After all of these spiritual roadblocks, Paul receives a vision of a man of Macedonia, begging them for help.

‡ Why do you think that God did all of this, and what does it change about the way you have envisioned God's Great Commission? And ultimately, how does this affect the way you understand God's character?

o Who was this man from Macedonia, and how does this help us understand why God had diverted them from the other good places they could go instead?

‡ (10) The first "we" in the book of Acts give us a clue.

o What do we know about God's character that helps us understand why He places roadblocks in our paths even today?

MY PRAYER THIS WEEK:

1. What roadblocks might God be placing in my life today?
2. What "better thing" might God be trying to show me by keeping me from the "good thing"?
3. What new things do I see of God's infinite character now?