



# If God Closes One Door, He Will Open Another One

Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996)

# Acts 16:6–12 (NKJV)

6 Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.

7 After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them.

8 So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas.

9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.”

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Acts 16:6–12 (NKJV)



BETTER

10 Now after he had seen the vision,  
immediately we sought to go to Macedonia,  
concluding that the Lord had called us to preach  
the gospel to them.

11 Therefore, sailing from Troas, we ran a  
straight course to Samothrace, and the next day  
came to Neapolis,

12 and from there to Philippi, which is the  
foremost city of that part of Macedonia, a colony.  
And we were staying in that city for some days.

**BETTER**

**If God Closes One Door,  
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Acts 16:6–12 (NKJV)



- When God closes a door or many doors, you must know God is going to open up the doors He deems necessary for your propose or calling. There are some doors we should thank the Lord He closed!
- There are some doors that He closed, and we don't know why till sometimes later, and there are some we will never know why He closed them, but we are to be thankful because He kept us from something that was not for us.



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# Closed Doors Can Be Disappointing

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- After visiting the churches he had founded, Paul tried to enter new territory for the Lord by traveling east into Asia Minor and Bythinia, but the Lord closed the door.
- We don't know how God revealed His will in this matter, but we can well imagine that Paul was disappointed and perhaps a bit discouraged.

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- Everything had been going so smoothly on this second journey that these closed doors must have come as a great surprise.

## **Proverbs 13:12 (NLT)**

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a dream fulfilled is a tree of life.

- It must have been disappointing for the Lord to close this door, but Paul and Silas had to trust God, even in the midst of disappointment, because it is clear that the Lord closed the door.

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**BETTER**

# Sometimes Delayed Not Denied!

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- However, it is comforting to know that even apostles were not always clear as to God's will for their ministries!
- God planned for the message to get there another time (*Acts 18:19–19:41, and 1 Peter 1:1*).

**BETTER**

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# God Opens The Door In Macedonia

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- In His sovereign grace, God led Paul west into Europe, not east into Asia.
- At Troas, Paul was called to Macedonia by a man whom he saw in a night vision. “Nothing makes a man strong like a call for help.”

**BETTER**

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# God Opens The Door In Macedonia

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- God showed Paul a man in distress who needed the gospel preached to the city!
- God opened a door that no man could close!



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- God opened a door that no man could close.
- God showed Paul a vision! The vision is a man in distress, but obviously Paul had the gospel in him to make the people better!
- God will often give up an open door to make something or someone better, and it is a distressed condition.



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## Nehemiah 2:17–18 (NKJV)

17 Then I said to them, “You see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach.”

18 And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king’s words that he had spoken to me. So they said, “Let us rise up and build.” Then they set their hands to this good work.

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- Like Paul, Nehemiah, and others many of our open doors are times when God uses us to make others or something great other than ourselves!
- We are given open doors that will sometimes lead to being blessed by what we do for others by serving God!
- Which will lead to more open doors!

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**BETTER**

# Acts 16:13–15 (NKJV)

13 And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there.

14 Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. **She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.**

15 And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, **“If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.”** So she persuaded us.

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**BETTER**

# God Opens The Door Of Lydia's Heart

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- Lydia was a successful businesswoman from Thyatira, a city renowned for its purple dye.
- She probably was in charge of a branch office of her guild in Philippi.
- God brought her all the way to Greece so that she might hear the Gospel and be converted.

**BETTER**

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# God Opens The Door Of Lydia's Heart

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- She was “a worshiper of God,” a Gentile who was not a full Jewish proselyte but who openly worshiped with the Jews.
- She was seeking truth because she wanted to be liberated.
- She, like all sinners, did not seek God on her own until He sought her.

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**BETTER**

# Romans 3:9–11 (NKJV)

9 What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin.

10 As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one;

11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.

- God comes after us through the leading of the Spirit!
- You are not here by accident!

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BETTER

- There is a leading of the Spirit of God for us to be in a place to hear the voice of God, and be led into a relationship with Jesus!

## **John 6:44** (NKJV)

No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.



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# John 12:32 (NKJV)

And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.”

- God is drawing all people unto Him, and it does not matter the color, or past of the people!

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- Lydia like many are being drawn by the Spirit of God to God, and they are searching for the truth, and in that truth they find freedom!

## **John 8:32** (NKJV)

And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”



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- Her conversion illustrates an important principle. An often-asked question about evangelism concerns the fate of those who never hear the gospel.
- Lydia's conversion shows that God will reveal the fullness of the gospel to those whom He causes to honestly seek Him.



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- Jesus said:

## **John 6:37** (NKJV)

All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

- God will never turn away the seeking heart.
- Many people need to open their hearts!



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**Because The Door Of Her  
Heart Was Open, Her  
Home Was Open To God.**

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**BETTER**

- As was customary in the early church, Lydia and her household were baptized immediately after their conversion, no doubt in the river near the place of prayer.
- Baptism is the outward sign of the redeemed individual's identification with Jesus Christ.
- It is an act of obedience by the believer but plays no role in salvation.



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# An Open Heart Will Have An Open Home!

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- After her baptism, Lydia urged that Paul and Silas accept her hospitality saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay.”
- Hospitality is required of all Christians.

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# An Open Heart Will Have An Open Home!

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## Romans 12:13 (NKJV)

distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

## Hebrews 13:2 (NKJV)

Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.

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- Lydia's hospitality gave proof that she was a truly liberated woman.

## **John 13:35** (NKJV)

By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

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