

“When One Door Closes, Another is Open”

Based on Acts 16:6-10 (NIV)
Rev. Roger Madden, preaching

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† **The Apostle Paul is on his second missionary trip.**

† **Paul was planning on revisiting existing churches in Asia Minor.**

Acts 16:6 - 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.

† **Paul was running into physical and spiritual barriers during this trip.**

Acts 16:7 - When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.

† **Once again, no matter how convinced Paul was that he was to go to Bithynia, that door was closed too.**

† **Life is full of closed doors.** (Unemployment, failures, illness, tragedies, things not going the way I want them to, etc.)

† **How does Paul respond to the first closed door? He continues on.**

† **How does Paul respond to the second closed door? He continues on.**

† **How am I to respond when I run into a closed door in my life? I am to continue on.**

Acts 16:9-10

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.

† **Closed doors are opportunities that lead me toward understanding God and myself.**

† **I often try to force open the closed door instead of looking for the open door that God is providing me.**

Applying Today's Message to My Life:

† How do I respond to detours or closed roads while driving?

† How do I respond to detours or closed doors while living?

† What “doors” have closed to me in the past which God had another open door for me?

† What closed “door(s)” am I now dealing with?

† How am I looking for the next open door in my life?
- Through prayer, others in my life, Bible reading, listening to God's Spirit?

† Or, am I still trying to force open the closed door because I want things done my way?