

Acts 16:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,

Analysis

The Holy Spirit's prohibition against preaching in Asia reveals divine sovereignty over missionary strategy—even good opportunities must yield to Spirit direction. This mysterious guidance redirected Paul toward Europe, demonstrating that effective mission requires sensitivity to divine timing and geography. God's 'no' proved as important as His 'yes.'

Historical Context

During the second missionary journey (AD 50), the Spirit prevented Asia ministry, redirecting Paul northward toward Troas. This seemingly closed door led to the Macedonian vision (Acts 16:9) and European evangelization, profoundly shaping Christianity's western expansion.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How can missionaries discern when God is closing doors versus when they face spiritual opposition?
2. What does this passage teach about trusting God's timing and direction in ministry?

Interlinear Text

διελθόντες	δὲ	τὴν	Φρυγίαν	καὶ	τὴν
when they had gone throughout	Now	G3588	Phrygia	and	G3588
G1330	G1161		G5435	G2532	
Γαλατικὴν	χώραν	κωλυθέντες	ὑπὸ	τοῦ	ἁγίου
of Galatia	the region	and were forbidden	of	G3588	the Holy
G1054	G5561	G2967	G5259		G40
πνεύματος	λαλῆσαι	τὸν	λόγον	ἐν	τῇ Ἀσίᾳ·
Ghost	to preach	G3588	the word	in	G3588
G4151	G2980		G3056	G1722	Asia
					G773

Additional Cross-References

Acts 18:23 (Parallel theme): And after he had spent some time there, he departed, and went over all the country of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.

Galatians 1:2 (Parallel theme): And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia:

1 Peter 1:1 (Parallel theme): Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

Acts 11:12 (Spirit): And the Spirit bade me go with them, nothing doubting. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house:

1 Corinthians 16:1 (Holy): Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye.

Galatians 3:1 (Parallel theme): O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

2 Timothy 4:10 (Parallel theme): For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

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