

# Acts 16:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.

## Analysis

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The Spirit's geographic restrictions - 'were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia' and the Spirit 'suffered them not' to go into Bithynia - demonstrates divine sovereignty in mission direction. Not all open doors are God's will; sometimes the Spirit closes opportunities to direct toward His specific purposes. This divine guidance led to the Macedonian vision and Europe's evangelization.

## Historical Context

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This geographical restriction redirected Paul from Asia Minor toward Europe. God's 'no' to eastward ministry enabled his 'yes' to westward advance, ultimately bringing the gospel to the heart of the Roman Empire.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How do you discern God's direction through closed doors as well as open opportunities?
2. What does this teach about trusting God's strategic vision even when it means passing seemingly good opportunities?

## Interlinear Text

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ἐλθόντες      κατὰ      τὴν      Μυσίαν      ἐπείραζον      κατὰ      τὴν  
**After they were come**      **into**      G3588      **Mysia**      **they assayed**      **into**      G3588  
G2064      G2596      G3465      G3985      G2596

Βιθυνίαν      πορεύεσθαι·      καὶ      οὐκ      εἴασεν      αὐτοὺς      τὸ  
**Bithynia**      **to go**      **but**      **not**      **suffered**      **them**      G3588  
G978      G4198      G2532      G3756      G1439      G846

πνεῦμα  
**the Spirit**  
G4151

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 8:29** (Spirit): Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

**Romans 8:9** (Spirit): But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

**Galatians 4:6** (Spirit): And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

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

**Philippians 1:19** (Spirit): For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

**1 Peter 1:11** (Spirit): Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

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