

# Confronting Closed Doors

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## I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Acts 16.
- B. The Holy Spirit closed the door on Paul twice despite the spiritual opportunity.
- C. A door is an opportunity. (II Corinthians 12:4, Colossians 2:2-3)

## II. Who is responsible for closed doors: circumstances, people, Satan, God.

- A. God can overcome the first three if He desires.
- B. We must focus primarily on why God closes doors.

## III. Why God closes doors.

- A. To protect us from making a mistake.
- B. He wants to redirect our life for a greater opportunity, service, fruitfulness, satisfaction, perhaps suffering, or glory.
  - 1. Paul's ministry was more fruitful and satisfying for waiting on God.
  - 2. Walking in God's will does not always end in pleasure—God knows what we need better than we do, and He wants to build perseverance.
  - 3. Sometimes God delays for His perfect timing.
  - 4. God allows closed doors because of disobedience.

## IV. How to respond when God closes doors.

- A. The wrong way.
  - 1. Trying to go any way.
  - 2. Becoming emotionally upset.
  - 3. Blaming someone.
  - 4. Rebelling against God. There are tremendous consequences to shoving open God's doors. (Genesis 16, 21)
- B. The right way.
  - 1. Wait until God opens the door or another opportunity. (Proverbs 3, Psalm 32:8)

2. Look for God's purpose in closing the door.

3. Pray for God's guidance while waiting.

**Application questions:**

1. When have you felt God closing a door? How did you respond?

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2. How can it be said that God may be directing our paths to greater suffering? Explain.

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3. How can we be on guard against responding to closed doors the wrong way?

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