

When God Shuts The Door

Introduction

As Christians, we should have ambitions to be used of God, and should constantly be seeking a place to serve God. Sometimes, however, our ambitions and plans do not fit the master plan for the church. It is then that the Lord has to close doors.

How we respond in the face of the shut door can many times determine our future usefulness to God.

I. Our ambition to serve

Acts 16: 6a, 7a NIV Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of

Phrygia and Galatia, ... When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia

- A. The tendency to continue doing what has been successful
 - 1. Philip -- Acts 8
 - a. The great Samaritan revival
 - b. The great miracles
 - 2. Paul -- Acts 16
 - a. Success in Asia Minor
 - b. Desire to continue ministry in Asia
- B. The presumption that because we have experienced success, God wants us to continue
- C. The tendency to follow a successful model
- D. The difficulty to hear God during our success

II. God closes the door to our ambition

Acts 16:6b-7 NIV ... having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.

- A. God's master plan is the key to successful ministry
- B. Our ambition must follow his master plan
 - 1. Master plan called for the gospel to go west
 - 2. Asia had another place in God's plans

- C. Doors are closed when we cannot see God's master plan

III. God's plans for your ministry

Acts 16:9 NIV During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

- A. God may want you to originate a new ministry
- B. God may be wanting you to wait until his timing is exact