

A Holy Spirit Take Over

Acts 16

Which spirit are you mostly following?

“There are several spirits that we could follow.” We all follow one more than the others. **Which spirit are you mostly following, and what does that look like?** There’s **your** _____ **spirit**, that’s mainly marked by selfishness. We *want* and we *do* what we want. There’s **the spirit of this world**, which is primarily marked by conformity. I’m conforming myself to the world around me. There’s **the spirit of the evil one**. You may know an evil person who is characterized by evil. They’re in the grip of the evil one. There’s **the Spirit of God** who indwells us at the point of salvation. If He indwells you, you are indwelt by Almighty God Himself. *If you choose to* _____ *His lead* through humility, submission, and faith-filled obedience, you are marked by His awesome power, and you experience **a Holy Spirit take over!** But **what does that look like?**

In today’s Spirit-inspired Word, **we see a panoramic series of pictures of what that looks like.** The pictures of our lives spliced together will look very similar to the panorama in this chapter. The circumstances will be different, but the pictures will be basically the same.

Pictures of what a Holy Spirit take over looks like:

1. A disciple who is worth _____ (1-5).

If you are following God’s Spirit, you’re one of two people or both. You’re a worthy disciple who’s worth mentoring, or you’re a worthy mentor who’s worth discipling a disciple, or both.

The word translated “strengthened,” means “being made _____”—they were being made solid in the Christian faith, and they were growing in numbers daily. But in the midst of all of this great *ministry to* and *growth of* the church, Paul saw in Timothy a Spirit-empowered disciple worth mentoring for the ministry.

2. A Spirit who is worth _____ (6-10).

This is the first of the **we** sections in Acts, indicating that Luke, the human author of Acts, joined Paul, Silas, and Timothy, probably at Troas. So watch for the pronouns. But the most prominent element in this picture is the prominent presence of the Holy Spirit. Notice how God's Spirit is sovereignly redirecting and directing the team (6-10).

They planned to go east into Asia, **but** the Spirit of God *redirected* them into Europe. *What a huge turning point in history.* And because of Paul's obedience, the gospel went westward, and ultimately Europe and the western world were evangelized, including us! Has God's sovereign leading, guiding, directing, redirecting ever surprised you?

3. A message that is worth _____ (11-15).

The most significant thing about Lydia is God's sovereign work in her life, as once again (cf. 13:48), Luke stresses the sovereignty of God in the salvation of a lost soul. But isn't she saved because *she chose* to believe in Paul's preaching about Jesus? Yes. But isn't she first and foremost saved _____ "the Lord opened her heart"? Yes!

The gospel message is worth sharing because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. And Lydia believed, and then boldly identified herself with Jesus Christ by being baptized.

4. A problem that is worth _____ (16-18).

The demon had his reasons for proclaiming the truth: primarily to make the people of Philippi connect the gospel to demon possession, which would totally corrupt the message. So Paul used his authority as an apostle to exercise the demon, speaking directly to it, commanding it in the name of Jesus to come out, demonstrating the sovereign and supreme power of Jesus _____ demonic powers.

This was a problem worth confronting. And suddenly being delivered by the power of Jesus Christ, this poor abused, exploited girl was no longer poor, abused, or used. And, no doubt, she continued to follow Paul and the ministry team, becoming the second saved soul in Philippi.

5. A consequence that is worth _____ (19-24).

In a Satan-saturated world, we are not exempt from paying consequences. But what is better: paying for the consequences of our own sins, or paying the consequences of being _____ against, and/or the consequences of faithfully serving Jesus Christ?

Men (and women, and boys and girls) who are controlled by the Spirit, *can't/won't pay* for their own consequence of disobeying their God. So *they pay* this awful consequence that *they deem worth paying!*

6. A soul who is worth _____ (25-34).

I wonder if God is sovereign... I wonder if God cares... But what does He care about? His purposes! His people! Even this hardened _____! God cares, for if even one prisoner escapes, the jailer is either imprisoned or executed. So, as his physical life flashes before his eyes, he's suddenly concerned with his spiritual life, and cries out, "What must I do to be saved?" There's only a handful of people in that city who could answer that question. That's why God sent them there.

7. A fight that is worth _____ (35-40).

Paul is using his Roman rights to _____ the newborn church. Sometimes, **under the control of the Holy Spirit**, there's a fight worth fighting. But typically not the kind of fights we see the church fighting today. This is actually a fight that has God's approval.

Do these pictures _____ your life?

1. Are you a worthy disciple or a worthy mentor? 2. When the Holy Spirit redirects you, are you *redirectable*? 3. Are you acutely aware that you have a message about Jesus that's totally worth sharing? 4. Are you, on occasion, confronted with a problem that God considers worth confronting? 5. Are there consequences that stem from obedience to Jesus that you know are worth paying? 6. Is there a soul in your life who's surely worthy of saving? 7. Is there a fight—not a selfish one, but a God-centered one—that's worth fighting?