

PULPIT COMPANION

DEXTERITY NEEDED

ACTS 16:26

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In this powerful message, we're challenged to develop spiritual dexterity - the ability to pivot and adapt when God redirects our path.

The central story of Paul's journey in Acts 16 teaches us that sometimes God blocks familiar doors to train us for unfamiliar instructions. We're reminded that God's 'no' can be a neon sign flashing 'wrong way,' protecting us from unseen dangers. This lesson encourages us to trust God's direction, even when it doesn't align with our plans.

The message emphasizes that clarity comes to those who commit to moving in faith, not those who wait for perfect visibility. We're urged to adjust our expectations to God's elevation, recognizing that blessings often come wrapped in unfamiliar packaging. This insight challenges us to look beyond our comfort zones and embrace the unexpected ways God works in our lives.

SCRIPTURES FROM PULPIT AI

- Acts 16:6-15
- Proverbs 16:9
- Isaiah 55:8-9
- Matthew 16:19
- Revelation 3:8
- Genesis 12:1
- Acts 16:26





DEVOTIONAL

Day 1: Trusting God's Direction

Reading: Acts 16:6-10

Devotional: Just as Paul was redirected by the Holy Spirit from his planned journey to Asia, God sometimes closes doors we thought were meant to open. This isn't a punishment, but divine guidance.

Today, reflect on times when God has redirected your path. How did it feel in the moment? What blessings or growth came from following God's unexpected lead? Remember, God's "no" is often a redirection to a greater "yes." Trust that He sees the full picture of your life and is guiding you towards your true purpose, even when the path seems unclear.

Day 2: Embracing Divine Appointments

Reading: Acts 16:11-15

Devotional: Paul's encounter with Lydia wasn't what he expected, but it was exactly what God had planned. Sometimes, our greatest ministry opportunities come in unexpected packages.

Today, be open to the "Lydias" in your life - those divine appointments that may not look like what you anticipated. God often works through unlikely people and circumstances. Ask God to open your eyes to see His hand at work in your daily interactions. How might He be using you to touch someone's life today in ways you hadn't planned?

Day 3: The Power of Pivot

Reading: Genesis 12:1-5

Devotional: Abram's call to leave everything familiar required tremendous faith and flexibility. Like Paul's redirection to Macedonia, Abram's journey teaches us the power of pivoting when God calls.

Reflect on areas in your life where you might be resisting change or holding onto old ways. What "comfortable" things might God be asking you to leave behind? Remember, your willingness to pivot in obedience to God can lead to unforeseen blessings and expanded influence for His kingdom.





Day 4: Elevation through Obedience

Reading: Philippians 1:3-11

Devotional: The church in Philippi, born from Paul's obedience and Lydia's open heart, became a source of great joy and partnership in the gospel. When we follow God's lead, even into unfamiliar territory, He often elevates our impact beyond what we could imagine.

Today, consider how your obedience in small things might be preparing you for greater works. Are there areas where you need to step out in faith, trusting God to elevate your influence for His purposes?

Day 5: Closing Doors, Opening Hearts

Reading: Revelation 3:7-8

Devotional: "What God opens, no one can shut, and what He shuts, no one can open." This powerful truth reminds us that God is in control of the doors in our lives. Sometimes, His greatest work happens when He closes a door we desperately wanted open.

Today, reflect on any "closed doors" in your life. Instead of trying to force them open, ask God to reveal why they might be closed and what new opportunities He might be presenting. Trust that His plans for you are good, and that closed doors often protect us and direct us towards His best path.





SMALL GROUP GUIDE: “Dexterity Needed”

Opening Prayer:

Begin the session with a prayer, asking God for wisdom and openness to discuss and apply the message.

Key Scripture: Acts 16:26

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon talks about "when the Spirit blocks the obvious." Can you share a time when God redirected your plans in an unexpected way? How did you respond?
2. How do you distinguish between doors God has closed and obstacles you should overcome through persistence?
3. The pastor mentions "pivoting on a promise." What does this mean to you, and how can we apply this concept in our daily lives?
4. Reflect on the story of Paul and Lydia. How does this narrative challenge our expectations about where and how God works?
5. The sermon emphasizes trusting God's leading. What are some practical ways we can cultivate trust in God, especially during times of uncertainty or change?
6. How can we develop spiritual dexterity in our lives? What habits or practices might help us become more flexible and responsive to God's leading?
7. The pastor talks about "elevation" and "enlargement." What areas of your life do you feel God might be calling you to expand or elevate?





Practical Applications:

1. Daily Trust Exercise: Each day this week, intentionally identify one area where you need to trust God more. Journal about it and pray specifically for increased trust.
2. Unexpected Blessings Log: Keep a log of unexpected blessings or encounters you experience this week. Reflect on how God might be working through these.
3. Closed Door Reflection: Identify a "closed door" in your life. Spend time in prayer, asking God to reveal if this closure is for your protection or if it's an opportunity to practice spiritual dexterity.
4. New Territory Challenge: Step out of your comfort zone in one small way this week (e.g., talk to a stranger, try a new ministry at church, reach out to someone you've been avoiding). Reflect on how this experience stretched your faith.
5. Pivot Prayer: Develop a short "pivot prayer" to use when you face unexpected changes or challenges. For example: "God, help me trust Your direction and move with Your leading."

Key Takeaways:

1. Spiritual dexterity is the ability to adapt and move with God's leading, even when it's unexpected or unclear.
2. God sometimes blocks familiar doors to train us for unfamiliar instructions.
3. Dexterity involves trusting God's direction, even when it doesn't align with our plans.
4. God often delivers blessings through unexpected people and unusual places.
5. Our pivot can become our platform for new opportunities and growth in God's kingdom.

Closing Prayer:

Close the session by praying for spiritual dexterity, trust in God's leading, and the courage to step into new territories as God directs.

