

Title: **"Concluding That God Had Called Us": 7 Tips for Discerning God's Direction in Your Life**
Text: **Acts 16:6-10**

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Big Idea

It's hard sometimes to discern God's direction in our life, to get a clear sense of what he's calling us to do. Even these missionaries in our text seem a bit confused at first. But, by the end, they are able to conclude: "This is what God wants us to do!" How? Let's learn from them . . .

Tip #1: Start with Scripture

When you are trying to discern God's will for your life in this or that situation—his call for you to go here or there—it doesn't begin with some subjective impression or sense you have, some message written for you in the clouds, some opinion shared with you by a trusted mentor. No! As we'll see, those things might have their place, but they all take a backseat to this. Start with Scripture. For, in Scripture, we have God's will revealed to us in infallible fashion.

Tip #2: Listen and Look for the Lord

In all of this, one thing becomes clear: this little band of missionaries must have been praying. They were, no doubt, listening and looking for the Lord. If they weren't, they would have just barreled on through, sharing the gospel in the south, sharing the gospel in the north—of course that's what God wants, isn't it? But they were sensitive to the Spirit. They were staying current with the Lord—walking with him, talking with him.

Tip #3: Consider Him Who Calls

You're not on your own to figure this out. God's got you. The one who died for you and rose for you isn't about to leave you now. The "Spirit of Jesus" (v. 7) will guide you.

Tip #4: Live within Your Limits

You're not God. You're not the Savior. You're a human being. And you have limits. Every need or desire or expectation is not a call. You can't do it all. Your job is just to go and be faithful where you're called, however big or small the task may be, regardless of whatever you or others think needs to be done.

Tip #5: Get on God's Mission

In our text, if you noticed, Paul, Silas, and Timothy, they are already out on God's mission, desiring to reach others for Jesus—loving God, loving neighbor . . . ready to go. Their lives are already on the altar. Their "yes" is already on the table. "Just show us where you want us to go and we'll go." It's, no surprise, then, that—in that space, with people that have that kind of heart—God reveals and directs and moves. If that's not your heart before the revelation, you will never get the revelation. If you're not on God's mission, you won't get God's direction. If you haven't taken up your cross to follow him, you won't get any vision from him.

Tip #6: Let Others In

Even though the vision came to Paul alone, he went on to discuss it with the others, and together they concluded: "God [has] called us to preach the gospel to [those in Macedonia]" (v. 10). God's will, God's direction—it's discerned in community. So let others in.

Tip #7: Pull Out the Lord's Prayer

There's one simple place you can turn to remind yourself of all we've been saying and begin to work through it with God: the Lord's Prayer, given to us by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 6:9-13). The Lord's Prayer has the advantage of being quite memorable and yet it also takes us through these tips bit-by-bit. I commend it to you!



Reflection Questions

- How do you typically go about trying to make decisions? What do you do in your effort to discern God's "call"?
- Which of the seven tips listed in this sermon seemed most helpful to you and why? What might it look like to incorporate such a thing into your own discernment processes?

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Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.

FAITH: The Way Back to God | We are redeemed to enjoy intimate presses our church *upwards* in love

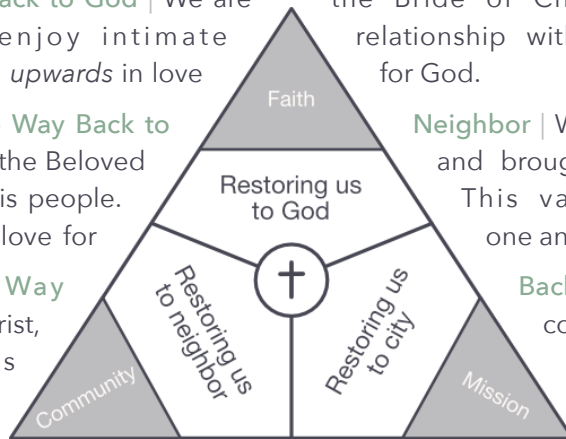
the Bride of Christ, created and relationship with him. This value for God.

COMMUNITY: The Way Back to Christ, adopted in the Beloved relationship with his people. church *inwards* in love for

Neighbor | We are the Family of and brought into covenantal This value presses our one another.

MISSION: The Way the Embassy of Christ, Savior to be his value presses our in love for the

Back to City | We are commissioned by the ambassadors. This church *outwards* unbelieving.



Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



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Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.
We are so glad you've joined us today!

Announcement Spotlight

All Church Prayer - Tonight!

Prayer is the start of everything good (Acts 1:14). It is the death of self-reliance and the lifeline of faith. It is the moving of our eyes outward and upward. It is the stretch of our empty hands towards a Father rich in mercy. As a church we prioritize this regular prayer meeting because of our deep-seated conviction that, while man can plant and water, it is only God who can cause the growth (1 Cor. 3:7).

This Sunday's prayer meeting will held at 6:00pm at the Wilson Residence.

Scan the QR code below for more info.

If you have any questions, please reach out to us at info@mercyhillchurch.org.

Covenant Membership Class - Last Call!

Short-Term Missions Trip to the Philippines - Last Call!

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