

BLOCKED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

Acts 16:7

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Sometimes Christians don't always get what they want or do what they think is the best thing for whatever that might be, it just might not be what God has in mind and therefore the Holy Spirit keeps the Christian from doing what he/she thought he/she ought to do. An example of this is with the apostle Paul. He had made up his mind to go to Bithynia but that was not in God's plans for him and in some manner God stopped him. Paul was not a person who took lightly to not being able to do as he had planned and he had set his heart on going North to Bithynia. After all has been said and done, people through the centuries have benefited from God blocking Paul's plans for instead of going to Bithynia, he went to Europe and preached in Athens, the place of the Caesars. He was some thousand miles away from where he wanted to be, but he was pushed to Troas where the vision of the man of Macedonia called out to him. When God blocked his way to one place, He opened up another place and Paul did much more service there and in a way was honored by God. God still blocks His Children, Christians at times to direct them to another area of service.

I. SOMETIMES BELIEVERS ARE BLOCKED THAT THEY MAY NOT BE DEFEATED

1. When wanting to do something for the Lord, usually one looks for an open road, a clear view to do what he/she thinks is good for the cause of the Lord Jesus.
 - When God blocks one's plans, it is not easy to back away and not be saddened and disappointed.
 - It is difficult for some to back away and take another look at what God might have planned.
2. When blocked by the Lord from doing what one thinks would be good for the Lord, it is good when one can be like Paul and accept the fact that what he/she wanted to do might have been good, but the Lord has something better in mind.

II. SOMETIMES GOD BLOCKS ONE'S LONG AWAITED FOR GOALS AND DREAMS

1. When young, one has plans, dreams of being a fireman, a nurse, a doctor, etc, something exciting to grow up and become.
 - Visions of greatness, accomplishments, recognition are in every child's mind and hopes.
 - Upon becoming an adult, however, the doors to those wants and dreams were closed and that child who is now an adult is not a fireman, a nurse, a doctor, not what he/she had dreamed of becoming.
2. Christians also have such dreams and goals in more of a spiritual realm, wanting to be somebody special for the Lord Jesus, wanting to do something great and marvelous for His cause.
 - Like Paul, Christians have plans to go to their "Bithynia" but the Holy Spirit blocks those plans, those dreams.
 - The Lord Jesus has other plans which will produce far greater results.

III. ONE'S PLANS ARE SOMETIMES BLOCKED BY BAD HEALTH

1. Sometimes one's body prevents one from reaching his/her "Bithynia."
 - It becomes physically impossible to follow through with one's plans to do this or that for the Lord.
 - One has to delay, postpone, even cancel his/her plans in order to take care of that sick family member.
 - The Lord sometimes uses illness to block one from going the wrong way or doing the wrong thing.

2. When the Lord blocks one's plans, shuts the door, one must remember that God knows him/her perfectly, thoroughly and has plans for every single believer's life.
 - Some people just need to be told "NO!" and their life will be much richer with the blocked way.

IV. SOMETIMES PLANS ARE BLOCKED BY BEING UNABLE TO EXPRESS ONE'S THOUGHTS

1. Feelings are often unable to be expressed.
 - Thoughts of comfort to those who are in sorrow.
 - Some experience with God one has had.
 - There are just not words enough to express what one is feeling or thinking.
2. The Lord sometimes blocks a person from telling others what he/she is thinking/feeling.
 - What one is feeling or experiencing is sometimes only for that single person and not for others.
 - Some things from the Lord are meant to be kept in the heart of that person and not told to others.
3. Never be discouraged if there are times when YOU can't find the words to tell what is in your heart.
 - Sometimes the Lord wants to keep you from your "Bithynia."
 - There are times for a person to be silent and the Lord Jesus knows exactly when.

V. THE DESIRES OF ONE'S HEART ARE SOMETIMES BLOCKED..

1. There are those who have a hunger and thirst for someone to love.
 - They don't want to be rich or famous.
 - They don't want to be brilliant or intelligent.
 - They want someone to lavish their love upon.
 - All their lives they have waited for that one "special" person to come into their life.
 - Yet others have that special person, a family but somehow that dream has been blocked for some.
2. Paul would have never heard the Macedonian call, the cry from Europe if he had been allowed to go where he wanted to.
 - When he heard the call "*Come over and help us...*" he was able to go because he was blocked from doing what he wanted to do, going where he wanted to go.
 - Some Christians would never have heard their call to serve the Lord had the Holy Spirit not blocked their wants, dreams and plans.

VI. ONE'S DESIRE FOR REST IS SOMETIMES BLOCKED

1. As one grows older there comes the desire for things to slow down, for more comfort and peace.
 - One asks for less and less each year.
 - One wants more peace and quiet.
 - One wants less activity.
 - One wants to be able to go and do things that he/she never had the time to do before.
2. God has plans for each person's life and He knows when it is time to slow down, to back off, to take a break, to retire.
 - One is blocked from settling here or there and is propelled on to another task for the Lord.
 - The believer's rest will come when he/she is with the Lord in his/her prepared place.

CONCLUSION:

1. God's ways are not our ways, His thoughts are not our thoughts, and God has a plan for each believer's life with every detail already worked out.
2. There are times when a person is not going the direction God wants and He will block this and that until that person comes around to what God has in mind.
3. It is good to want to be active, to be in the service of the Lord Jesus, but one needs to be doing and going what and the direction the Lord has in mind.
4. Just being active in the things of the Lord does not mean that is what the Lord has in mind.
5. If YOU are unsure what God has in mind for you, back up and see what God is blocking you from wanting to do or not do.
6. Remember that if Paul had had his way and went where he wanted to go, even though it could be considered good things for the Lord, Europe would have never have gotten the Gospel.
7. Remember that if YOU don't go the way the Lord has in mind for you, others will not benefit and others will perhaps even suffer loss.