



# THE BOOK OF ACTS

## THE LIMITLESS GIFT OF SALVATION

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When the Holy Spirit leads the mission of the church:

- We are moved in directions we do not plan to go.
- Unexpected people are reached.
- The church grows in diversity.

### INTRODUCTION OF THE GOSPEL IN EUROPE

“After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.” Acts 16:10 (NIV)

“The invasion of Europe was not in the mind of Paul, but it was evidently in the mind of the Spirit.” -Campbell Morgan

The Holy Spirit sometimes leads through “*double guidance*”

*Double Guidance* = A “no” in one direction followed by guidance to a new “yes.”

## **Missionaries in History that Experienced Double Guidance:**

- David Livingstone tried to go to China, but God sent him to Africa instead.
- William Carey planned to go to Polynesia, but God sent him to India.
- Adoniram Judson went to India first, but God drove him to Burma.

## **What about you?**

Is there somewhere you are trying to go, but God is saying “no” look for where He is opening a door to a “yes.”

## **FIRST CHRISTIAN CONVERTS IN EUROPE:**

### **1. Lydia**

“One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message.” Acts 16:14 (NIV)

- Converted in a small group meeting.
- A wealthy woman (dealer in purple garments).
- Independent woman with her own business and her own house.
- Saved by God when Paul and his team shared with her the truth of the Gospel.

### **2. Unnamed Fortune-Teller**

“Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling.” Acts 16:16 (NIV)

- Harasser of the disciples.
- An impoverished woman
- She was the business for men who owned her.

- Possessed by an evil spirit giving her the power to tell fortunes.
- Saved by God when Paul cast the evil spirit out of her.

“Dispossessed of the evil spirit and restored to her right mind, the woman chose to become a follower of Christ.” -Ellen G. White, Acts of The Apostles, 213.

### 3. A Roman Jailer

“After they (Paul and Silas) had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. 24 When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.” Acts 16:23, 24 (NIV)

- A middle-class man.
- A Roman jailer.
- A persecutor of Paul and Silas.
- Ready to take his own life when he believed the prisoners had escaped.
- Saved by God through the divine miracle of an earthquake and the kindness of Paul and Silas.

These three stories counter the prayer:

*“I thank God that I was not born a woman, a slave, or a gentile.”*

Jesus doesn't care if you are a woman, a slave or gentile.

Jesus wants to save you.

Jesus doesn't care if you are rich, poor, or middle class.

Jesus wants to save you.

Jesus doesn't care if you are male or female.

Jesus wants to save you.

