

## Acts Part 18 The Anatomy of Fulfilling God's Call

Pastor John Carmichael

[Act 16:6-9, 13, 16-18, 22, 25, 30-31 NASB95] 6 They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; 7 and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them; 8 and passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. 9 A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ... 13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled. ... 16 It happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a slave-girl having a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortune-telling. 17 Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, "These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation." 18 She continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" And it came out at that very moment. ... 22 The crowd rose up together against them, and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them and proceeded to order [them] to be beaten with rods. ... 25 But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them; ... 30 and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

- **NOTE:** This series is a “master gauge” for the church. It is important that we apply the attention and significance to this series for us to become the church this world needs. We are prayerfully seeing how we can apply the principles of the book of Acts to today.
- In Acts 16, we see Paul fulfilling the call of God on his life. Here is a snapshot of what it looks like when we fulfill God's call on our lives.

What is involved in fulfilling God's call?

There are 5 things involved in fulfilling God's call on our lives from Acts 16.

- I. Fulfilling God's call will involve specific obedience.**
  - a. V. 6-10
  - b. It's important to be in your grace and place.
  - c. When it comes to fulfilling the call of God, God's "NO" is as valuable as His "YES."
  - d. God's call has a place. Learning to listen and obey God is vital.
  - e. If you seek for God's direction, you will get it. [Jer 33:3 NASB95] 3 'Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'
- II. Fulfilling God's call will involve intentional prayer.**
  - a. V. 13-16
  - b. A place of prayer.
  - c. Prayer will need to be intentional in your life.
- III. Fulfilling God's call will involve demonic opposition.**
  - a. V. 16-18
  - b. With every new level, there is opposition.
  - c. [Mat 12:29 NASB95] 29 "Or how can anyone enter the strong man's house and carry off his property, unless he first binds the strong [man?] And then he will plunder his house.
  - d. Learn to use your authority over the devil.
- IV. Fulfilling God's call will involve a sacrifice of praise.**
  - a. V. 22-26

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- b. There will usually be seasons of pain.
- c. [Isa 61:3 NASB95] 3 To grant those who mourn [in] Zion, Giving them a garland instead of ashes, The oil of gladness instead of mourning, The mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.
- d. [Heb 13:15 NASB95] 15 Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.
- e. It's during those times that we must learn to seek God and stay in a place of praise to God. Prayer and praise are a weapon.

**V. Fulfilling God's call will involve loving people.**

- a. V. 27-34
  - b. Paul had to minister to the jailer, who likely was part of causing him pain.
  - c. To fulfill God's call, you will have to learn to love and forgive.
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- **There are many things involved in fulfilling God's call and they include obedience, prayer, overcoming demonic opposition, learning praise God when its uncomfortable, and loving everyone.**