

Recalculating: When God Redirects

Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch and, along with many others, preached the Good News and taught the people the message of the Lord. Acts 15:35 (NCV)

1. The best place to be is where God wants you to be, doing what God wants you to do.

After some time, Paul said to Barnabas, “We should go back to all those towns where we preached the message of the Lord. Let’s visit the believers and see how they are doing.” Acts 15:36 (NCV)

2. It’s easy to presume that God wants you to always do what you’re doing now.

Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and left. The believers in Antioch put Paul into the Lord’s care, and he went through Syria and Cilicia, giving strength to the churches. Acts 15:39-41 (NCV)

Paul and those with him went through the areas of Phrygia and Galatia since the Holy Spirit did not let them preach the Good News in Asia. When they came near the country of Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not let them. Acts 16:6-7 (NCV)

3. God often redirects us into new and unusual opportunities.

So they passed by Mysia and went to Troas. That night Paul saw in a vision a man from Macedonia. The man stood and begged, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” Acts 16:8-9 (NCV)

After Paul had seen the vision, we immediately prepared to leave for Macedonia, understanding that God had called us

to tell the Good News to those people. We left Troas and sailed straight to the island of Samothrace. The next day we sailed to Neapolis. Then we went by land to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city in that part of Macedonia. We stayed there for several days. On the Sabbath day we went outside the city gate to the river where we thought we would find a special place for prayer. Some women had gathered there, so we sat down and talked with them. **Acts 16:10-13 (NCV)**

4. We must be willing to recalculate our methods, while maintaining God's mission.

One of the listeners was a woman named Lydia from the city of Thyatira whose job was selling purple cloth. She worshiped God, and he opened her mind to pay attention to what Paul was saying. She and all the people in her house were baptized. Then she invited us to her home, saying, "If you think I am truly a believer in the Lord, then come stay in my house." And she persuaded us to stay with her. **Acts 16:14-15 (NCV)**

5. Where God guides, God provides.

From Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus. To all of God's holy people in Christ Jesus who live in Philippi... I thank my God every time I remember you, always praying with joy for all of you. I thank God for the help you gave me while I preached the Good News—help you gave from the first day you believed until now. God began doing a good work in you, and I am sure he will continue it until it is finished when Jesus Christ comes again.

Philippians 1:1, 3-6 (NCV)

As you know, you Philippians were the only ones who gave me financial help when I first brought you the Good News and then traveled on from Macedonia. No other church did this. Even when I was in Thessalonica you sent help more than once. **Philippians 4:15-16 (NLT)**

...“wisdom is shown to be right by its results.”
Matthew 11:19 (CEV)