



God Calling

Acts 16:1-15 | Ryan Pfeiffer | July 26, 2026

INTRO. Acts is a beautiful insider look at how God calls ordinary men/ women to be a part of what He is doing.

In fact the whole Bible is about God's Calling...

In the beginning God called light from darkness

Creation from Chaos

Life from dust...

Abraham from Ur to become the father of a nation

Moses to lead a people out of slavery

Deborah to lead a confused nation

A young shepherd from the fields to be King

A virgin to carry the Son of God

A carpenter's son from Nazareth to be Savior of the world

A murdering zealot to be an apostle of God's love to the world...

THAT God is calling you... me... all of us... Church is the place we learn to recognize God's calling and find the courage to respond

FOCUS. Acts 16 shows us how everyone of us in this room is CALLED... to join him... to be with him... to believe in him.

CALLED TO JOIN HIM. Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer but whose father was a Greek. 2 The believers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. 3 Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. 4 As they traveled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey. 5 So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.

This is our intro to Timothy... who is a huge part of Paul's life/ Church history

Over time Timothy becomes like a son to Paul... he writes in 2 Tim As I remember your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy.

- Here in Acts 16 we see God calling Timothy to join God's mission
- I wonder how Timothy felt... excited? Freaked out? Like a frosh in college?

Everyone of us is called to join Jesus in building-up the Church... v5.

The Church = the body of Christ... the people of God... the temple of God...

HOW ABOUT YOU...

1. Maybe it's just showing up today...
2. Maybe it's taking a next step by serving, joining a group, giving
3. Maybe it's helping others find their way Home to God.

Prayerfully make a list of 3 people.

Commit to praying weekly till end of Acts series

Like Paul... invite a friend... to join you... 20min call... pray.

CALLED TO BE WITH HIM. 6 Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. 7 When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. 8 So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. 9 During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come

over to Macedonia and help us.” 10 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.

I love that Acts shows us these moments... you could look at Paul and think...

He always knew where he was going... what he was doing... visions... faith!

Even Paul had moments and seasons where he felt uncertain... unsure...

- Who can't relate to this?! When it seems like everything is a closed door...
- The 100th interview... the 100th date... Why doesn't God just show us!?

What Paul wanted to do was good... but it wasn't the right time...

Eventually he does plant churches in Asia... Ephesus... 7 Churches of Rev!

God has his timing... so we are called to wait with Him... Spirit of Jesus...

It's in these moments we learn it isn't about what we do for God...

It's about what we do WITH GOD.

Waiting with God trains us to draw nearer... to listen... trust... be with God.

ILLUS... I sensed I was done with my work in Intervarsity... What's next!?

- Went to a prayer meeting for guidance... vision... walking...
- Went to Cornwall (PPT- Path)
- Walked with Jesus... no clarity... Ryan can you be lost if you are with me?

Proverbs 16:3 Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.

1. “Establish” יָכִין ... it means to prepare... make ready... to put right... make firm.

CALLED TO BELIEVE IN HIM. 11 From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day we went on to Neapolis. 12 From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days. 13 On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. 14 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. 15 When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. “If you consider me a believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay at my house.” And she persuaded us.

Paul doesn't begin w/a synagogue because there wasn't one... need a quorum

So he hears about a prayer gathering of Jews/ God fearers... Like Lydia!

Here's some irony... even though God closed doors to Asia... Lydia's from Asia

We don't know about the other women... but It says v14... the Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message...

God opens our hearts but we choose to walk thru the open door.

God has given the world increasing degrees of revelation... creation... The Law... but nothing greater than HIS SON JESUS!

Hebrews 1:1-3 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. 3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being...

Lydia already believed in God... but God was calling her to faith in Jesus.

It's not enough to believe there's a God out there... a higher power...

Believing in Jesus is accepting God's most intimate self revelation...

It means moving toward a personal relationship with God.

Has God been calling you to believe or renew your believe in Jesus?

INVITE WORSHIP TEAM.