

## **ReStart Week 7: The Call - Acts 16:1-10**

### **David Bawks - Pathway Community Church (April 18, 2021)**

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Acts 16:1 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.

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.

Why would God not want them to preach the gospel in a particular place?

Have you ever had a similar experience where you wanted to do something but felt God saying no?" How did that turn out?

Basic definition: To call someone means to summon or converse with them, usually with a loud voice or from a distance. You also call someone by their name, and parents have the responsibility to designate what their children are called.

Calling is a common theme throughout the Bible.

Looking at all these various functions, Os Guinness summarizes the use of calling in the Bible as "a central and dynamic theme that becomes a metaphor for the life of faith itself" (The Call, 31).

- **We are first called to be, then to do.**
- **Obey what you know.**

**Who is calling out for help today?**

My challenge for you this week is to ask yourself these two questions:

- 1. What is God calling me to be today?**
- 2. Who around me is calling out for help?**

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