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WARM UP

Do you have a story about being lost? How did you find your way back? How did you feel at the time?

WORD

Read [Acts 21:1-16](#)

Have you ever tried to figure out what God wants to do with your life? Ever tried to figure out how to make sure you're on the right track with God's will? We can learn a lot from the encounter Paul had with his friends in Acts 21 and about how to hear from God with clarity. Let's look at three ways we can hear from God about His will for our lives.

NOTES

1 Through Friends and Family

³When we had come in sight of Cyprus, leaving it on the left we sailed to Syria and landed at Tyre, for there the ship was to unload its cargo. ⁴And having sought out the disciples, we stayed there for seven days. And through the Spirit they were telling Paul not to go on to Jerusalem. ⁵When our days there were ended, we departed and went on our journey, and they all, with wives and children, accompanied us until we were outside the city.

[Acts 21:3-5](#) (ESV)

God gives us a unique connection with friends and family to help us. You can ask godly friends and family what their counsel and guidance might be in accordance with His will.

- Who has God put in your life to trust for godly counsel and guidance? How are their relationships with God?

2 Through Corporate Prayer

⁵When our days there were ended, we departed and went on our journey, and they all, with wives and children, accompanied us until we were outside the city.

[Acts 21:5](#) (ESV)

Pray wherever you are and pray with people who are united in their desire to hear God and worship Him.

- Do you know people you can pray with? How regularly do you pray together?

3 Through Prophecy

⁸On the next day we departed and came to Caesarea, and we entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. ⁹He had four unmarried daughters, who prophesied. ¹⁰While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. ¹¹And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'This is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" ¹²When we heard this, we and the people there urged him not to go up to Jerusalem. ¹³Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." ¹⁴And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, "Let the will of the Lord be done."

[Acts 21:8-14](#) (ESV)

Prophecy generally consists of *foretelling* (what God is going to do) and *forthtelling* (the proclamation of God's Word). Paul hears about what is going to be done to him. The people are concerned, but Paul knows that it is his destination to become a martyr for the faith.

- Do you have faith that is unshakable, despite possible persecution? If not, would you like to ask for that unshakable faith from God?

PRAYER

- Ask God to show you His will for your life.
- Ask that God would be glorified in the execution of His will in your life, and that you would not be tempted to worship anything other than that.
- Pray for the persecuted church around the world. You may access updated data on persecuted nations at: www.opendoors.org.za/christian-persecution/world-watch-list-2017/.