# The Leading of the Spirit 13. Inspired to Go or stay

## Acts 12:6-12; 16:25-28

# A door opening

## If a door opens do you walk through it?

## Caution is what we learn when things don’t go well

# God in control of circumstances

### Both stories needed for balance

## Together they teach us:

### God is more powerful than chains or circumstances

### God’s leading is NOT always the most obvious thing to do

### Following Christ is not formulaic

### We are called to listen to the Spirit on each occasion

# Making decisions is hard

## There are consequences!

### The leading of the Spirit was obvious at the time

### The peace of God was present in both situations

## God’s leading produces spiritual peace

### That doesn’t mean you don’t get nervous or fearful

# Homegroup/Private study questions

# Hard decisions

## Think back to hard decisions you have made

### How did you come to the ‘right’ (or ‘wrong’) answer?

## How do you know, generally, what is the right thing to do or say?

## How far do you agree that caution is learned?

### Can you overemphasise caution to a child?

#### What are the consequences of this?

### Can you underemphasise it?

#### What are the consequences of this?

# Doors opening

## What doors are opening to you in the church, in your work, in your family and in your community?

### Which ones are you more willing to walk through?

### What ones are you reluctant to go through and why?

# Two stories

## Read both stories in full (12:1-19 & 16:16-40)

## Peter and Paul were in different circumstances

### Why do you think the writer (Luke) includes both stories?

## To what extent do you agree that both are needed to correct the conclusions we can draw from just one?

### If only the first story was included what could we conclude?

### If only the second story was included what could we conclude?

## How does the inclusion of both stories make following Christ harder?

### How does the inclusion of both stories make faith in Christ more personal/dynamic?

# God in control of all circumstances

## Is this a Biblical concept?

### Where is the evidence for this in the Bible?

### Why is it important?

### What does it say about God and about history?

# Following the leading of the Spirit

## If every Christian can claim that they are following the Spirit how can we preserve unity in the church?

### How do we deal with those who want different goals for the church?

### How do we handle those who want different moral standards for individuals in the church?

### How do we preserve fellowship with those who want to vary common codes of conduct?