

# Difficult Decisions (Acts 20:22-21:14)

*Need Direction? – Part 2*

Life Church St. Louis – August 31, 2014

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

*Isaiah 30:21 (NIV) Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."*

*Matthew 26:39 (NIV) Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."*

*Philippians 1:29 (NIV) For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him,*

## 1. Follow the \_\_\_\_\_ guidance

*Acts 20:22 (NIV) "And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there."*

### 1A. Listen to the Spirit's \_\_\_\_\_

*Acts 20:23 (NIV) I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me.*

### 1B. Determine to \_\_\_\_\_ God's task

*Acts 20:24 (NIV) However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me--the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.*

## 2. Weigh godly \_\_\_\_\_

*Acts 21:4 (NIV) Finding the disciples there, we stayed with them seven days. Through the Spirit they urged Paul not to go on to Jerusalem.*

*Acts 21:5 (NIV) But when our time was up, we left and continued on our way. All the disciples and their wives and children accompanied us out of the city, and there on the beach we knelt to pray.*

## 3. Be prepared for \_\_\_\_\_

*Acts 21:10-11 (NIV) After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. Coming over to us, he took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, "The Holy Spirit says, 'In this way the Jews of Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.'"*

### 3A. Don't be swayed by \_\_\_\_\_

*Acts 21:12-13 (NIV) When we heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, "Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."*

### 3B. Trust in the \_\_\_\_\_

*Acts 21:14 (NIV) When he would not be dissuaded, we gave up and said, "The Lord's will be done."*

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Intro. Why do you think that in many Scriptures God promises to guide His people (for example Isaiah 30:21)?

What kind of difficult decisions do believers face that need specific guidance beyond the general principles of God's Word?

Explain why I have listed the importance of ways of guidance as follows:  
1. Gods' Word. 2. Holy Spirit. 3. Godly counsel. 4. Circumstances?

What does Jesus' example in Matthew 26:39 teach us about our will and God's will?

In what ways does God's will for our lives involve suffering (Philippians 1:29)?

1A. Why did God lead Paul to go to Jerusalem but not tell him everything that was going to happen (Acts 20:22)?

1B. Why would the Holy Spirit warn Paul about hardships that he was going to face in Jerusalem (Acts 20:23)?

1C. How is Paul's determination to complete God's task an example for us to follow (Acts 20:24)?

1D. Why is it important to believe that the types of guidance we read about in the Bible are still operative today?

2A. How did the disciples in Tyre interpret the warnings of the Holy Spirit for Paul (Acts 21:4)? What was wrong with their interpretation?

2B. Why did Paul ignore the counsel of the disciples at Tyre (Acts 21:5)?

2C. When godly counsel is in contradiction to what you believe the Holy Spirit is saying, how can you come to a decision?

3A. Why is it significant that there were prophets like Agabus in the New Testament (Acts 11:27-28)? What was the purpose of Agabus' prophecy for Paul (Acts 21:10-11)?

3B. How did the disciples' emotion get in the way of hearing God's will (Acts 21:12-13)?

3C. How can you submit to the Lord's will in faith when you have to make difficult decisions (Acts 21:14)?