

Unity in Action Acts 16:1-15

Keywords and Phrases*

Baptized (v. 15)
Greek (vv. 1, 3)
Holy Spirit (v. 6)
Lord (vv. 14, 15)
Macedonia (vv. 9, 10, 12)
Sabbath day (v. 13)
Spirit of Jesus (v. 7)
Worshiper of God (v. 14)

*Keywords may vary depending on Bible translation

Critical Thinking Questions

1. Why did Paul circumcise Timothy when the Jerusalem council had already decided that New Testament followers were not obligated to undergo circumcision (see also Galatians 2:3)?
2. Why is it essential in Acts 15:1-3 for Luke to highlight that Timothy's mother was Jewish and his father was Greek?
3. What caused the churches to be strengthened and grow in number? What does this tell us about God's will for His church (compare Acts 2:47; 5:14; 6:1, 7; 9:31)?
4. Why is it noteworthy that Paul arrived in Macedonia and encountered a group of women praying by the river on the Sabbath day (Acts 16:13)?

"So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily."

(Acts 16:5 ESV)

Analyzing the Scripture

Paul

- traveled to Derbe and Lystra (v. 1).
- wanted Timothy to accompany him (v. 3).
- circumcised Timothy (v. 3).
- Saw a vision in the night of a man from Macedonia (v. 9).

Timothy

- was a son of a Christian Jewish woman and a Greek father (v. 1, 3).
- traveled with Paul and Silas preaching the Gospel (v. 4).

The Churches

- were strengthened in the faith (v. 5).
- increased in number daily (v. 5).

The Holy Spirit

- directed the travel of Paul and the missionary team (vv. 6-10).

Lydia

- met with other women on the Sabbath day for prayer (vv. 13-14).
- was a worshiper of God (v. 14).
- was a seller of purple goods (v. 14).
- was baptized with those in her household (v. 15).
- provided lodging to Paul and the team (v. 15).

The Lord

- opened the heart of Lydia to the Gospel (v. 14).

The Author, Luke

- joined the missionary team (vv. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15).

Reflection Question

How can you help make our local church community stronger and encourage more people to join us in faith?