Confronting Closed Doors

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I. Introduction.
   B. The Holy Spirit closed the door on Paul twice despite the spiritual opportunity.
   C. A door is an opportunity. (II Corinthians 12:4, Colossians 2:2-3)

II. Who is responsible for closed doors: circumstances, people, Satan, God.
   A. God can overcome the first three if He desires.
   B. We must focus primarily on why God closes doors.

III. Why God closes doors.
   A. To protect us from making a mistake.
   B. He wants to redirect our life for a greater opportunity, service, fruitfulness, satisfaction, perhaps suffering, or glory.
      1. Paul’s ministry was more fruitful and satisfying for waiting on God.
      2. Walking in God’s will does not always end in pleasure—God knows what we need better than we do, and He wants to build perseverance.
      3. Sometimes God delays for His perfect timing.
      4. God allows closed doors because of disobedience.

IV. How to respond when God closes doors.
   A. The wrong way.
      1. Trying to go any way.
      2. Becoming emotionally upset.
      4. Rebelling against God. There are tremendous consequences to shoving open God’s doors. (Genesis 16, 21)
   B. The right way.
      1. Wait until God opens the door or another opportunity. (Proverbs 3, Psalm 32:8)
2. Look for God’s purpose in closing the door.

3. Pray for God’s guidance while waiting.

**Application questions:**

1. When have you felt God closing a door? How did you respond?

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2. How can it be said that God may be directing our paths to greater suffering? Explain.

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3. How can we be on guard against responding to closed doors the wrong way?

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