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Act 16 versus 6 through 15. These are God's words. Now, when they had gone through frigia and the region of Galatia, They were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. After they had come to Mizia, they tried to go into Bithynian. But the Spirit did not permit them.

So, passing by Misia, they came down to Troy as And division appeared to Paul in the night. Man of Macedonia, stood and pleaded with him saying come over to Macedonia. And help us. Now, after he had seen the vision, Immediately we sought to go to Macedonia. Concluding, the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Therefore, sailing from Troas. We ran a straight course to some authors. And the next day came to Minneapolis and from there to Philippi. Which is the four most city of that, part of Macedonia. A colony. And we were staying in that city for some days. And on the Sabbath day, we went out of the city to the Riverside.

Where a prayer was customarily made. We sat down and spoke to the women. Who met there? Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of theatira. Who worshiped? God. The Lord. Opened her heart. To heed the things spoken by Paul.

And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us saying, if you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay So, she persuaded us. So for the reading of God's inspired in an errand for it. We look to him now to add his blessing, also to the preaching of it, Please be seated.

There are many difficulties in the Christian life. The greatest of which is the Christian himself. Our own remaining sin. Our own weakness, our lack of understanding and Even that which we know and even after the Lord has Given us new life, new desires in Christ. The things that we want to do by grace.

We find ourselves not doing the things that His grace has taught us to hate. We find ourselves still doing as if there was a law in us. Saying not to obey the law that we now think of as holy and righteous and good, and blessed, because it comes to us from the hand and from the mouth of our Lord, Jesus, The Royal law, the law of liberty.

And yet. There is so much that remains from that former slavery, that bondage to sin, even after it is no longer our master. It is so constantly an opponent. That it feels like a law within our members. And then, there are those other frustrations Now, I mean, that by that not the sinful emotional response although that is A form of word.

But when we are trying to do, Good things that we know the Lord has called us to do. And he providentially hinders. His providence. Forbids it. His providence doesn't permit it. This is one of the great trials and troubles in a Christian life. A young man who Wants to.

To be a. A husband and a father, and the Lord does not bring him in. Has provenance to. To a wife in the timing that he would wish or a young woman vice versa with A husband. Man or Christian man or woman. Who know of places where there is great financial need in.

Among the saints of God's people or in their community, or for the support of Evangelistic, their gospel ministry and Yet. The little that the Lord enables them to scrape together, never feels like enough and they even sometimes find themselves being the needy ones. Wishing that they had extra to give But they end up being on the other side of, let the thief no longer steal but let him work with his hands so that he may have something to give.

To others to his brethren in time of need. And he's the needy brother of that equation sometimes. Well, certainly the apostles were called to go and preach the gospel. By the help and sustaining of God, the Holy Spirit. That can there be a greater desire? Then to tell of the Lord Jesus Christ, who He is what he has done for sinners.

His perfectly righteous life, as a tending death to put away sin, His resurrection life by which a sinner can be. Not only forgiven, but have newness of life and walk in that newness of life, the desire to tell that Many of you, perhaps. Have those brothers and sisters. Using the word now biologically, if your family of origin parents children, Extended family for whom, we have been praying with you.

For you. And you had what you hoped would be an opportunity on Thursday. And, There was some providential hindrance, you didn't actually get to talk to them or there was something else that happened. In the midst of it. The Lord's providence to us is often full of frustrations. Now we're coming in Acts chapter 16, as we continue to consider those things that Jesus has continued to do into teach, right?

We remember that, from the beginning of the book of Acts, how the apostle refers back to his first volume. What we call the gospel of Luke as those things which Jesus began to do and to teach. And now we are And seeing those things that Jesus has continued to do into teach by His Spirit and we living in the age of the Holy Spirit, the Lord Jesus still sitting on the throne of heaven, still building his church still working.

As we see him working here. We come to the founding of the great Church of Philippi. The church that receives one of the most positive letters in the New Testament. Yes, sir. A couple of A couple of women in the church who need the help of the other, the rest of the church to agree.

But Philippians is overflowing with thanksgiving to God and and commendations praise of God's gracious work in them and confidence that even as good as that work is already that the Lord is increasing it and will complete it in them in the day of Jesus Christ. And we come to act 16.

We say Let us, let's pay careful attention. For how a church like Philippi. Can be founded. And what we find? Or frustrations. We find. What will consider in the middle? Portion of the sermon. That God's providence is often. Puzzling. That the Spirit by whom Christ is building His church.

The God, the Holy Spirit, who is at work in the church. He works, and he rules, and he overrules in a way that is often very puzzling. But that in the first place. This providence is personal. And in the last place, this providence is Powerful. And the knowledge of who's providence, it is that is a personal problems.

And, How and why he works in that providence, that it is a powerful providence. Is what enables us to respond rightly to the fact. That has providences often. Very, Puzzling. First then. Is a personal providence. Now, when they had gone through frigia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit, To preach the word in Asia.

After they had come to Misis, they tried to go into Bithynia but the Spirit Did not permit them. And then the conclusion to it. In verse the conclusion to this little episode in verse 10 concluding that the Lord and here, Lord is the same spirit who had forbidden in verse 6 and did not permit in verse 7.

But now concluding that the Lord had called us To preach the gospel to them. One of the very first things we need to do here is Is to learn again. That the Holy Spirit as a person. He's not a power. God is love. He has no need in himself.

He has all fullness in himself. He dwells from everlasting to everlasting. In fellowship and adoration. In appreciation, the Father and the Son and the spirit one God One substance. If we can use that word as men grow up after, what the Lord says, teaches us in the scripture. And yet, three, Persons.

Don't say don't use the pronoun. It With the Holy Spirit. It's a mistake that you can make in Greek because Of the forms of words and the use of the neuter but it doesn't have to do with impersonality. The way our word it has to do with impersonality. You say, he About the Holy Spirit because he's a person not a power.

He can forbid and he can permit and he can call. We can grieve him. When we hear the apostolic blessing, that is pronounced at the end of second Corinthians 13. It is him. It is he sorry, predicate, nominative. It is he Of the three persons of the Godhead in the, in the end of second Corinthians 13 with whom the blessing is that we have fellowship.

Do we not have fellowship with the Father and with the Son? Well yes we do of course. First John chapter 1 of fellowships not just with one another But with God, with His Son, Jesus Christ. But as especially the Holy Spirit of whom, we are told that we have fellowship with him.

One of the reasons why we seek to love one another. Well, in the way, especially that we speak to one another and about one, another End of Ephesians 4 coming into Ephesians 5 So that we won't grieve. The Holy Spirit. Who is always with us and never leaves us.

We've been sealed by him unto the day of redemption. He is the one whom of whom to whom Jesus gave the the title, another paraclete. Another one who has been called, alongside us Powers, don't get called alongside Persons do. And he never leaves us and we know that he's there with us.

And so we want always to speak kindly to one another and in an edifying way, with grace to build one another up. We don't Harbor bitterness but we we pray to God, not just for daily bread and that we would be forgiven but that our forgive thenness would be shown in our forgivingness and in part because the third person of the God had the Holy Spirit with whom we have fellowship, he's there with us and he is, especially grieved Powers.

Don't get grieved. Persons do.

When someone we realize. That God's providences. Personal. And that the Spirit, especially is the person of the Godhead whom the The Lord speaks to us of when he's talking about as has providence and don't read that in the wrong way. Don't think about that in the wrong way. And all of the And some of you doing the classical thing, others not There's a Latin phrase for you all of the opera ad extra.

All of the actions of God that are outside himself. The three persons of the Godhead are always in full union all acting. And so, when you say the sun, does this, or the spirit does that or the Father does this? There's always God, who does it? The Triune God.

The father and the Son and the spirit are always acting. And yet he does teach us something about the persons of the Godhead by whom he features in how he speaks to us about what he does, which person And he has been showing us that the Spirit in proceeds from the Father and the Son is especially the one who is at work in all things.

Ever since the beginning of Genesis, That. When God, created the heavens and the earth, and the earth was formless and void that the spirit of God was hovering over the water. That's not a UFO. It's not an inanimate object, hovering over the water though. The the verb that's used there is is that of a mother hen or bird hovering over her chicks.

Attending to each one. So that we would see that God who creates all things and who loves to bring order to things so that we in His image ought to be people who bring order to things as well, and who's very generous. And we can't redo all of Genesis one right now, but that it is especially gobble.

Holy Spirit. Of whom he speaks to us. As working in his creating work and in his providential work, In part because it's God the Holy Spirit to him. The Sun sends into our hearts and God sends into our arts, as the Spirit of His Son, the one whom Jesus had in full measure.

The spirit of Christ is the one who is at work in, who is with a Christian. And who, dwells in a crisis, not a spirit, like the Spirit of Christ. But the same third person of the Godhead who with reference to our Lord's humanity. Filled him. He is with us.

And in us, which is why Jesus on the night that he's betrayed tells the disciples that they're not being left as orphans. That it was better for them that Jesus would ascend and sin, the Holy Spirit in part because by the spirits being with a believer and in a believer, the father and the Son come and make their home with the believer.

Because it's impossible to be indwelt by God the Holy Spirit without having the Triune God. Acting as one in this opera. I had extra this action outside of himself. So you say how can it be better for me? That the resurrected. Jesus Christ. Is. Sitting on a throne in a place that Scripture calls the third heaven.

Instead of standing with me, Or I can. Standing in front of me where I can see his face. Where I can know what it feels like to have his arms around me. How can that be better for me? Well, first and foremost. Because knowledge is by faith more than it is by sight.

But secondly. Because the spirit communicates. The presence of the full Godhead, the Father, and the Son, making their home with the believer. Wherever. A believer is. And so he has been poured out upon us not just as the third person of the Triune Godhead but also as the Spirit of Christ So in the fullness of time, Galatians 4 says God sent His Son into the world, to be born under the law to redeem us who are under the law.

And because we were children, we are children through faith, and in, he sends the spirit of His Son into our hearts, by whom we cry, and that means not by whom. We learn to mouth the words of a father. But by whom our souls know. God, to be our Father.

For those of you who have a hard time, Knowing conceiving of God as your Father who has adopted you in the Son that you have been brought into the family of the Triune God himself. This is one of the great ministries. Of the Holy Spirit to you. That it comes to you not just as the third person of the Godhead, but as the Spirit of His Son, Ministering to you something that you now have in common with in union with from Jesus himself.

Now, doesn't that change the way you think about Providence? If the spirit. Who is that person and is doing that work? Is the one who frustrates you. Again, I don't mean. Your sinful emotional response. The one who brings every hindrance. Where, Paul desires. To go into Asia using the name for that.

That province. In the Roman Empire. What would be modern-day Turkey? Is it not a good thing to preach the gospel? And it isn't isn't much the Roman province of Asia full of Gentiles and should not the one who has been called the Apostle to the Gentiles. Shouldn't he go preach the gospel to them?

It's a good thing that he wants to do. His forbidden. Well. How about Bithynia? It's another place where there are a bunch of gentiles and the apostles of the Gentiles wants to go there, and he wants to tell them about Jesus. So that they'll believe in Jesus and be saved from their sins.

And God, the Holy Spirit. Doesn't permit them. But it's called the Holy Spirit. Who doesn't permit them? You see wherever? The apostle Paul and Silas with him and now Timothy with him. And by the time they leave Troa as Luke with him, wherever they go to preach the gospel.

It's only the work of God, the Holy Spirit in them, and it's only the work of God, the Holy Spirit attending, the hearts and minds of those to whom. They preach. That is going to save anyone anyway. You see knowing that providences. Personal that it's something that that God is not just doing in my life but that anything that I do God, the Holy Spirit in order for it to be effective in order for it to bear fruit.

God, the Holy Spirit. Has to be the one who makes it effective. God's. The Holy Spirit is the one who has to make it fruitful. And so if I have good intentions even obeying a command of Scripture, but the specific detail of the action that I want to take.

I am somehow prevented In God's providence. Do you see how it removes the frustration? To know that it's personal. You don't know what God is doing, but he does.

You don't know why? And even after, thank you thought you knew, why you still don't know. Why? How arrogant? Now I know why God did this in my life? No you don't. Now, you've been given to see one tiny little reason that is part of an infinity in the decree of God.

And now, you can worship at the feet of him who alone is wise. Saying not now I know why. But thank you for showing me part of why. So that I can know that. I don't know why. And I adore you. Because you are wise and I am not

The spirit is attending us in our ministry even as he's been superintending, all things and especially in the work of new creation. That's what's happening in Acts, right? Acts in some respect is a lot like Exodus. Right. God is constituting a church in the book of Exodus as we've been seeing and it's been helpful to us, I think to have the two books at the same time but it's also a lot of Genesis Because the church doesn't belong to this world.

Doesn't belong to this creation. Jesus is a new Adam. And the people who are in Jesus are a new creation. You know that phrase if anyone is in Christ, that that scripture if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. That's the verb isn't in there. It's just if anyone is in Christ you creation.

That the part of the new heavens and the new earth that is here, now are the new creatures, recreated in Jesus Christ. And the Spirit who hovers over the waters at the beginning of the

book of Genesis and whom we are to see as working through all creation and all providence is especially the one who's working in his church.

Isn't that what we've seen? Jesus even, He gave them all the commands. All the things they were supposed to do and then he told them but don't do it. It seems like counterintuitive instruction. Why not do it? Because I have ascended to the throne yet from which I'm going to pour out my spirit.

You have to wait. Because it's by his spirit that he works in his church. And this is one of the things that has been unfolding for us and in what I hope for you has been as it has been for me, a remedial course in my poor appreciation of and knowledge of God, the Holy Spirit and how he works in his church.

Oh, what a help and blessing. To a sinful partially sanctified minister. To have his nose rubbed, weak by week by week. In the fact that God the Holy Spirit is at work in his church. And that these are the particular ways.

You see the the spirit is the one. By whom God works in his world. A couple of familiar passages for you. I hope for you to read in a new way now. Or with fuller knowledge, fuller understanding, Ephesians 1 So again, huge passage, we can't do the the whole context but just verse 11 in whom also Christ.

We have obtained, an inheritance. Being predestined, according to the purpose of him. Who works all things? According to the Council of His will. In other words, God is working all things according to the Council of His will, He rules and overrules everything that happens even by the free choices of of willing creatures, who are making real choices?

Like Joseph says You meant it for evil. God meant it for good. It's not a conflict there. It's just how sovereign he is that there are two wills operating and praise God. Because of how much I still. Mean, for evil. And yet, God always working for good. But the one who works all things for good is the one who predestined and inheritance and he's he's doing there in a little bit shorter form.

What we see in the middle of Romans 8, And now, one of the most Well, known and well-loved. We know that all things work together for good, for those who love God to those, who are called according to His purpose. But that has a context Then you back up to our praying because the creation is eagerly awaiting, the revealing of the sons of God where it will, we're in the last day and which is.

Tied to the redemption of our bodies at the resurrection, there will be now a new heavens and a new earth. In which it'll participate in the glorious, freedom of God's children and so forth and verse 25. We hope for what we do not see. We eagerly wait for it with patients, likewise verse 6, 26.

Now, the spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought. But the Spirit himself makes intercession for us with groanings, which cannot be uttered. Now, he who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is because he makes intercession for the saints, according to the will of God and we know that all things work together for good to those who love God.

Do you hear the difference when you, when you take the division between verse 27 and 28 that is artificially there in our minds and hearts out And you see the the spirit who is working all these things. So that by with the aim at the end of verse 30, those whom he justified he also glorified.

What is that? That's those who know that they are. The sons of God groaning. Who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groaning, for the day of the resurrection when they will have been conformed to the image fully conformed at the image of Christ, and there's that new creation for which their resurrection bodies have.

Now, been remained, Would grown towards us that that day, but we don't grow well enough. Why? Because we are unable to know and conceive, all that God intends on doing, between the time we come to faith and the time we come to the day of the resurrection, Do you know who is able to know it?

It's God, the Holy Spirit. And so the picture here is a Christian praying that he would become a little bit more. Holy praying that he would stop doing the things that he hates to do Praying that. He would do the things that he wants to do Praying that God would finish saving all those whom he has intended to save from before the foundation of the world, praying for Jesus's return come quickly.

Lord, Jesus, Praying. All of these things, not knowing what to pray for. In detail, as he desires all these things from the Bible and the spirit praying with him. Knowing exactly what to pray for. Because he's not just helping us pray for it. He is in sovereign Almighty Providence, making it happen.

One detail at a time. Everywhere. All the time. Always doing what is necessary. For the glorification of all the elect.

Has provenance is often. Is provenance is Personal. And that's why it's not such. Ought not me such a frustration. Now, we're talking with the sinful one. One has providence is puzzling. But it doesn't let you go where you want to go. And then when he gives you false starts, it feels like a false start, doesn't it?

They finally know where they're supposed to go. The spirit having made. No not. It would have been easy. If the Holy Spirit had just given them a verbal word of prophecy, you know, you shall not go to Asia, you know, a prophet. Arises and addresses them or one of them by the Spirit.

Prophecies to the others. We shall not go to Bithynia. We shall go to Macedonia. The Spirit doesn't use verbal communication there. Why? Well, at least in part for our good. Because we are not going to have in the age of the completion of God's verbal revelation. No one is going to arise and say You shall marry me.

God, the Holy Spirit says so. And if he does, you say, well. The spirit would have told my daddy to

But he does still work by his providence and we still receive it as personal. So that when we want to do something, right? And we are not able to, we say this comes From the Spirit, who loves me, who is applying Christ to me upon whom any effectiveness. I would have had their depends.

Anyway, Why would I want to be married? If God the Holy Spirit, wasn't attending me in my marriage. Why would I want to have that money or that job or whatever the providence is? If God the Holy Spirit wouldn't have been doing it with. He's the one who prevented me it's personal.

And that's why it's not so hard on me that it's puzzling. Sometimes it's harder when you get a full head of steam, right? They know where they're supposed to go. And so, It's, you know, the

there's shot out of the apostolic Canyon here. It conclude, they're going to Macedonia, therefore sailing from Troy as we were in a straight course.

Through some authors, You can hear the the directness and the next day, he came to the Atlas, you hear from the immediacy and from there to Philippi, which is the foremost city of that, part of Macedonia colony. I think God the Holy Spirit is sending us to Philip. I to preach the cup gospel.

We're going to Philippi. And they get there. And it's a city in, which Jews are despised. There isn't even a synagogue. So the foremost city of that region of Macedonia. And there aren't even 12 men, that's, that's what was needed for a synagogue, 12 Jewish men, And when they go out by the river, Where prayer is made.

They don't find men at all. They just find women.

You get a full head of steam, thinking, you know what God has called you to do. That you get there. You don't even have the advantage that the council had spoken of in chapter 15. Moses has. Every Sabbath in every city. Those who read him. Not in Philippi.

It's even going to get more puzzling. When after they have one convert and her household, The next thing that happens is. That they get dragged before magistrates beaten to please the masses thrown into prison. Now, there The spirit's providence is often puzzling. What was the Lord doing? What we can read the book of Philippians, we know what the Lord was doing.

His building one of. The most well, commended churches in the entire New Testament that we would love If you were going to get a letter, You would want Hopewell to receive. The Philippians letter.

His sat has providence. It was often puzzling. But God is not puzzled in part because he knows what He is going to do and what he is doing. And then part, because he's able, To do. Whatever he is doing. You think about Lydia whose name, we don't actually know.

We find that out because of what it says, in verse 14, certain woman called Lydia. It's translated named in our verse that's fine. Heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of theaيرا. Let me say, oh now we get it. Well we don't get it because we don't live in Macedonia.

There was a region of Macedonia called Lydia. In which there was a city called Theaterra. She's called the Lydian woman. Because she's from the region of Lydia. She's she we don't even get her name actually. In the passage. They didn't even use her name. Well, that woman from Lydia.

She doesn't belong. Why doesn't she belong Well in part, probably because her husband isn't there. This is a Roman soldier, retirement colony But, She's the head of her household. Now whether she's been abandoned or whether he has died or whatever the providence is, here's a woman. Is in a male-dominated society, and if you think that's true in other places, try the soldier retirement colony.

She's a male-dominated culture. She is A single woman. God and his providence has taken her from Theatera to Philip, I at least he's provided that for her. And whatever the circuit circuitous route, it is that has taken her. He's also given her this sense of himself. She's she's a fearer of God.

She goes out to the river, she's groping at them. Her heart is not yet open yet. Right. She's She is not a believer in Christ prospectively yet, her heart is still closed. Her heart doesn't get opened until verse 14. It means she's something like there's Athenians in chapter 17.

Who have considered all of the ridiculous and they really are ridiculous. Gods of the Greeks and the Romans. Yeah, and Gods that make humans blush for how foolish and wicked. They are And know, these cannot be the ones who made us. These cannot be the ones who rule and overall, all these things.

These cannot be the ones in whom we have hope. Surely, there is an unknown God in whom we live and move and have our being You remember that from a couple, you know, from the next chapter. Hopefully, you've read the Bible enough and you remember that from the next chapter.

Lydia, is there at the river and God and his providence has brought her to Philippi and has enabled her to take care of her household and has given her at least this searching seeking where she fears God and on. The Sabbath day. And it's not first day Sabbath, it's not first day of the week.

So this is still the sixth day. She's out on the river. There's all this restraining grace At work. That has kept her from from descending further into paganism. You know, total depravity doesn't mean we're all as bad as we can be. It means we're bad through and through. Every part of us is bad.

There's nothing good in us. But we could each be way worse. God in his restraining, grace. Keeps us from being as bad as we could be. You know how I know. Well, in part, the Bible tells us all about it and in part we're still here. If we're all as bad as we could be, then in A sequence of really bloody murders.

It wouldn't have been the flood. The earth would have been filled with violence and then the world would have been empty to people and they'll be it And if that hadn't happened before, the 20th century, then as soon as we got nukes, If every one of us was as bad as we could be the ones in control, They would nuke everybody.

We'd be done image of God wiped out. There's restraining grace, that is at work. This is why we say, as well as long as there's life, there's hope. When we talk about our, our unconverted family, Because the God who has been restraining their sin, Still has them here. And he may yet save them.

That's what the whole sinners in the hand of an angry God. Sermon was about It wasn't a fire and brimstone and how mad God is all the time. Although he is angry every day, so I'm seven and we don't apologize for that. But it was about how marvelous it is.

That He keeps protecting you and keeps providing for you and restrains, the full expression of your sin and how He has given you every hope to respond. To the proclaiming of the good news of Jesus Christ. Because even as you have hated him and continually deserved his wrath, He is continued to restrain The full effect of your sin.

Would you not come to such a God who has shown such? Providential mercy.

Now, the difference between restraining grace and salvation is the need for renewing grace. God, who was working by restraining grace in Lydia. Works by that renewing grace. Doesn't he? In verse 14? Now, certain woman named Lydia, Heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Theaterra who worshiped.

God The Lord. Opened her heart. To heed the things. Spoken by Paul. God came. And the same Almighty power in which he had ordered the events of her life. He now changed the condition of her heart. So that she could believe in the Lord, Jesus Christ. Entirely. Entirely transformed her.

The power by which he had given her to believe in Jesus was then sealed upon her. And when she and her household were baptized. So one at a time. And the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and the name of the Father and of the Son of the Holy Spirit showing what?

That Jesus. The one who had died for her, the one in whom. She now believed the one who had poured out, the spirit who has opened her heart that he has, all the authority in heaven, and he has all the authority on earth. And that he is entirely the one who has saved her.

He's the one who put her in Philippi. He's the one who put those People in her household, whatever children, she had whatever servants she had. And they were now in the household. Of which the head was a believing woman who sold purple. You see the greatness of the power of God.

The hope that she would draw about what the Spirit was doing in those children, and even in those servants. If you imagine, She had taken them to the river that morning. Because it was the Sabbath day and the Jews believed in this God. Who. Sounds better than all the other gods and groping after him.

And God sends the apostle to the Gentiles who can't find a man in the city. Who would be willing to hear Him? And the apostle to the Gentile speaks to her. The Holy Spirit opens her heart. She believes she's baptized Nobody else. Believes there is baptized. She lays hold of the Or nobody else believes the household is baptized, but she lays hold of her privilege.

There's only one one option for Christian Hospitality in the whole city of Philippi. He says, you have to come home with me now.

If you believe that I'm faithful, you baptize me, you obviously believe that the Holy Spirit has opened my heart and that I believed in Jesus, Well now you have to let me exercise Christian Hospitality, It's my new spiritual gift. How do we know? Because use a Christian, she has a house.

And we're commanded to exercise hospitality. If you're a Christian, you have a house, you have the spiritual gift, Of hospitality.

So, she brings Paul. Silas. Timothy. And Luke home to her house that night. Paul the Apostle leads family worship for her household. That sabbath evening. They wake up the next day. Paul the Apostle. Teaches her about the Lord's Day. And that Jesus is Jehovah, who created all things. They spend a whole day.

Hearing from the entire Old Testament. How Jesus is Yahweh, who was coming in the flesh to save them? What hope? And confidence she would have And what God would be doing. In her servants and her children. When baptized yesterday and now we're being taught to keep all these things that God has commanded.

You see that's probably the spirit's providence. This person on the spirits Providence is puzzling. Butthole the spirit's providences Powerful.

How is God's providence been in your life? As he brought you into his church, He giving you faith in Jesus Christ. Has he? Given you children. Whom he has brought into his church with you. Who now, weak by week here with the attendance of the Holy Spirit among us?

Christ crucified proclaimed. Has he put his own sign upon them? Reminding you that he has all the power in heaven and on earth. And that. Although it is necessary for someone to believe. That their hearts would be opened. He's given you a sign that shows forth the pouring out of the one who opens the hearts.

Has he frustrated you? Not your sinful emotion. Has he taken? Good things that you wanted to do. Even by his gracious work in your heart and the instruction in the Word and you have wanted to do them. And he forbade, you He didn't permit you. Is he not still?

The God who is applying Christ to you? And who is building his church? With whom you have fellowship. This is how the church in Philippi started. By the personal and puzzling. And powerful providence. I've got the Holy Spirit. And let's pray.

Our Father, we pray, especially for those. Who are like this woman? That the river. Or the woman at the well, Perhaps, even without husband in a place where Is no knowledge of you.

We pray. Lord that Those who are frustrated in your providence that you would help them. We pray that you would give each of us to Understand and receive. And grow in and respond to. What you teach us from your word about yourself. Come Holy Spirit, we pray. Make us to know your fellowship with us.

Make us to know the Father as our Father, by your ministry and our hearts. Make us to know the Lord Jesus as our Savior. The one to whom we are united as part of his church. By your ministry, in our hearts come. Make the home of The Living God.

With each of us, we pray by your blessing upon your word. And grant that as we serve you and as we do those things, That you have called us to do. That we would do so with good hope. Knowing that whatever. Hindrances we face. Yet you are the one.

And whose providence, it comes. And that you will surely finish the work that you have begun. And so, we committed all into your care and Jesus name. Amen.