

# ACTS

## THE MOVEMENT BEGINS

Bridge City  
CHURCH

5/11/2025

### ACTS

### PART III: THE POWER OF AN OPEN HEART

**Acts 16:13–15 (NLT).** *On the Sabbath we went a little way outside the city to a riverbank, where we thought people would be meeting for prayer, and we sat down to speak with some women who had gathered there. One of them was Lydia from Thyatira, a merchant of expensive purple cloth, who worshiped God. As she listened to us, the Lord opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying. She and her household were baptized, and she asked us to be her guests. "If you agree that I am a true believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my home." And she urged us until we agreed.*

#### We see three qualities in Lydia:

- Lydia was a **seeker**.

**2 Corinthians 3:16 (NLT).** *But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.*

- Lydia had **open hands**.

**1 Peter 4:9–10 (NIV).** *Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*

- Lydia had an **external focus**.

**Proverbs 31:26–28 (NLT).** *When she speaks, her words are wise, and she gives instructions with kindness. She carefully watches everything in her household and suffers nothing from laziness. Her children stand and bless her. Her husband praises her.*

**Watchman Nee:** "The opening of our hearts to God, determines the depth of His work in our lives."

**REMEMBER:** Just as Lydia was an important part of expanding the Kingdom of God's movement in her generation, God desires to do the same with us and it all begins with an open heart.

## A HEART OPEN TO GOD:

### 1. [TRANSFORMS] LIVES.

**2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT).** *This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!*

**Romans 12:2 (NLT).** *Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.*

### 2. [RESTORES] SOULS.

**The word "restore" implies returning the soul to a state of freshness, healing, and strength.**

**Psalm 147:3 (NTV).** *He heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds.*

### 3. [BUILDS] BRIDGES.

**Psalm 127:1 (NTV).** *Unless the LORD builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted.*

**Matthew 7:24-27 (NTV).** *"Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. 25 Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. 26 But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. 27 When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash."*

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