

Powerful Praise
Heroes of Faith – Part 5 (Acts 16:16-34)
Life Church St. Louis – June 10, 2012
Pastor Dan Walker

2 Timothy 3:12 (NIV) In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

Matthew 5:11-12 (NIV) Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven ...

1. _____ opens ministry doors

Acts 16:16 (NIV) Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling.

Acts 16:18 (NIV) She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

2. _____ is part of God's plan

Acts 16:19 (NIV) When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities.

Acts 16:22 (NIV) The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten.

3. _____ unleashes God's power

Acts 16:25 (NIV) About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.

Acts 16:26 (NIV) Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV) Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

4. _____ reaches the lost

Acts 16:30-31 (NIV) He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved--you and your household."

Acts 16:33 (NIV) At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized.

Powerful Praise – Study Guide

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How can persecution be part of God's plan (Acts 4:27-30, Acts 16:22-24)?

Intro. How would you define a hero of faith?

In what ways does knowing that difficulties are part of God's plan help you face them?

Explain in your own words what 2 Timothy 3:12 means. How can difficult circumstances be a form of spiritual persecution?

3. If you were in Paul & Silas' situation, would you have responded as they did (Acts 16:25)? Why or why not?

In what ways could you be or have you been persecuted? What should be your response to persecution (Matthew 5:11-12)?

Why did God respond to Paul & Silas' prayer (Acts 16:26)?

1. In what ways does prayer open ministry doors (Acts 16:16-17)?

How can you grow in "giving thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)?

How do evil spirits oppress and control people today (Acts 16:18)?

4. Why do you think the jailer was so ready to be saved (Acts 16:27-30)?

What kinds of ministry do you think God has for you to be involved in (inside or outside the church)?

Describe all the steps of obedience of Paul & Silas that led to the salvation of the jailer and his household (Acts 16:31-34).

2. Why is persecution inevitable when God uses a believer in ministry (Acts 16:19-21)?

Who do you know that you would like to see saved? What is your next step in reaching them?