



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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At Midnight!

Scripture: Acts 16:25-26 - ²⁵ And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. ²⁶ And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

Midnight – it represents the height of the unconscious powers over the conscious powers of the world because it is the hour when most people are asleep and deep within their dreams. **Is the beginning of a new day.** Prayer is the key in knowing and doing the will of God. Paul and Silas gave themselves to fervent prayer day and night, they were able to follow the leading of God's Spirit. If we as saints of God would remain faithful in prayer, God will also demonstrate His mighty power and will through us. **God wants to unshackle mankind who are bound by sin, sickness, addiction, and the powers of darkness that we might be free.**

Regardless of a person's social status or manner of life, he can only experience true spiritual freedom from sin through faith in the name of Jesus. Sin is no respecter of persons. All people—the rich and the poor, the educated and the uneducated, the religious and the irreligious—must experience freedom from the power of sin in order to live the Christian life. **Prayer will break the chains of any conditions if we will continue in faith and not waver.** We have been endued with the mighty power of the Holy Ghost and the authority of the name of Jesus!

As people of God sometimes our faith is tested. We see through Scripture that God tests various men of God. Paul and Silas faced some of the most difficult circumstances imaginable. They were falsely accused, arrested, and imprisoned. They were beaten and shackled in the darkest, coldest section of the prison. But they refused to allow their horrific situation to dampen their joy! **After they got locked up, at midnight they were able to rejoice,** because at midnight starts a new day!

Though circumstances turned difficult and things quickly spiraled out of control in Philippi, Paul pressed on with what he believed God had called him to do. **Had he not done so,** the baptism of Lydia may never have occurred, the fortune-telling slave girl may never have been delivered from an evil spirit, and the Philippian jailer and his household may never have heard the gospel. They did not blame God for allowing these things to happen to them. Instead, they praise Him for His goodness! In the darkness of the night, they prayed and they sang. No matter what our circumstances, we should praise God. Others may come to Christ because of our example. **Some of us would be walking the floor in worry or crying woe is me!**

Paul and Silas kept their focus on the only person that could deliver them in praising Him. *“And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed”* (Acts 16:26). God brought a miracle that released them from their chains, but perhaps the greater miracle was that His Holy Spirit could so fill them that even in their painful imprisonment they could overflow with joy! Paul knew that life often leads to situations we cannot control but that he could control how he reacted to situations. Therefore, **the best response is to continue doing what you know you have been called to do, even when your mind is confused.** Confusing times are no time to abandon your belief in God!

Your joy as a saint of God should not depend on your circumstances. Joy comes from God, and therefore it cannot be affected by what is outside of you. Don't be fooled into letting the actions of others determine your actions. **True joy comes from knowing that God Himself lives within you and has fellowship with you, regardless of your environment.**

Whenever there is prayer, God's power is demonstrated and His will is done. We are not in control of what happens. Sure, we can make decisions, but regardless of what decisions we make, there will always be outside influences that affect situations. The truth is that at some point we all find ourselves in the midst of circumstances completely out of our control. But even when we are **not in control** of what is happening around us, we can **be in complete control** of what is happening within us.

Philippians 4:6-7 says, *“Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”* Do not allow difficult events to cancel the joy knowing you are a child of God. Choose to allow God's Spirit to fill you with His unquenchable joy, and your life will be a miracle to those who watch you face the trials that come.