

Praising God

Acts 16:16-34

Paul and Silas in Prison

As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. 17 She followed Paul and us, crying out, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.” 18 And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.

19 But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers. 20 And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, “These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city. 21 They advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practice.” 22 The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. 23 And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely.



Give thanks to the Lord, for His steadfast love endures forever. 2 Chronicles 20:21

24 Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

The Philippian Jailer Converted

25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to 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 everyone's bonds were unfastened.

27 When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. **28** But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." **29** And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. **30** Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" **31** And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." **32** And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. **33** And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. **34** Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.

**Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;
for His steadfast love endures forever!
1 Chronicles 16:34**

A Closer Look: A Thankful Heart

Being thankful has more to do with our attitude toward God than our situation. Because of the Lord's great love for us, our lives should be lived with great joy and thankfulness to God.

1. Men and women of the Bible thanked God in many circumstances. Name some of these individual (s). Tell what was happening:

- a. *Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! 22 My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before Him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm." Daniel 6:21-22 (Read also: Daniel 6:1-28)*
- b. *Then Jonah prayed to the Lord His God from the belly of the fish, 2 saying, "I called out to the Lord, out of my distress, and He answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and You heard my voice." Jonah 2:1-2 (Read also: Jonah 1-3)*
- c. *And directing the crowd to sit down on the ground, 36 He took the seven loaves and the fish, and having given thanks He broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 37 And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up seven baskets full of the broken pieces left over. Matthew 15:35-37 (Read also: Matthew 15:32-38)*
- d. *And as He entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance 13 and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." 14 When He saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. 15 Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; 16 and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Luke 17:12-16 (Read also: Luke 17:11-19)*
- e. **Read Acts 16:16-34 in this folder. Tell how Paul and Silas were able to thank and praise even in prison.**

- 2. What should our attitude be as we pray for our daily needs? What will flow through us in return?** ~ *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7*
- 3. What should our attitude be as we pray?** ~ *Say also: "Save us, O God of our salvation, and gather and deliver us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to Your holy name, and glory in Your praise. 36 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!" 1 Chronicles 16:35-36*
- 4. Giving thanks is not just a one time prayer. Tell how we are to live our lives.** ~ *Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. Colossians 3:16-17*
- 5. Paul tells us to be thankful in all circumstances. What is the reason for our joy?** ~ *9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:9, 16-18*
- 6. Name a time when you were having a difficult time. Tell how you were able to feel thankful to God.**