



# Miracles At Midnight of Praise

**"And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them" (Acts 16:16-17).**

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"Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. 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. 27 And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. 28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. 29 Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, 30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? 31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. 32 And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. 34 And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house." (Acts 16:24-34).

The power in praising God is inestimable. Time and again, we see God move in magnificent power and splendour in response to praise from His subjects. Truly, "Whoso offereth praise glorified me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God" (Psalm 50:23). Eager to see a demonstration of God's power and intervention in your life and circumstances, then start praising Him and never stop. In this text we learn that:

1) Paul and Silas had just gone through a gruesome experience in life, through false accusation, persecution, beating, wounding and being thrown into prison (vs 24). Most would cringe in such a situation, wondering where God is, and why God could not have prevented such happening when they were serving Him. Rather, they had the peace of God that passed understanding. Jesus did not promise a life free of trials, but rather promised to be with us. "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the

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world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). When trials knock on the door, remember the adage - "it comes with the territory". So, keep moving on with God, and do not be deterred.

2) "And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them" (vs 24). This was the fulcrum that turned the door of their circumstances around. There were a thousand and one other things they could have done, but they choose to pray and sing praises to God. If it was just the prayers alone, it would have been understandable under the circumstances, but the addition of praises took it to a higher dimension "beyond understanding". You can only sing like that, in such situations, when you have the peace of God that passes understanding - "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7).

3) It is noteworthy that it was not silent prayers and praises that they were engaged in, otherwise, the other prisoners would not have heard them (vs 26). Let your light shine wherever you are (Matthew 5:16).

4) God inhabits the praises of his children "But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel" (Psalm 22:3). In response to their praises, the presence of God visited their prison, bringing manifestation of power in the form of an earthquake that set them free and resulted in the salvation of the prison officials and their household (vs 26-34).

If you will praise God irrespective of your circumstances, you will experience His glory!