

Singing With Joy In Prison

## Acts 16

*(7) the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to...*

## Acts 16

*(9) During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." (10) After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.*

## Acts 16

*(12) From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. (13) On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer.*

## Acts 16

*We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. (14) One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart*

## Acts 16

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

When the Holy Spirit moves in new ways in new places among new people, there will always be a counterattack from the powers of evil.

## Acts 16

*(16) Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by **a female slave 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

*(17) She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.” (18) She kept this up for many days.*

Alliances between the light side and the dark side always become very confusing and often water down the gospel.

- Joseph Stowell

## Acts 16

*Finally Paul became so annoyed 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.*

## Acts 16

*(19) When her owners 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

*(20) They brought them before the magistrates and said, “These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar (21) by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.”*

## Acts 16

*(22) The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods.*

You can be in the center of God's will, and at the same time, be in a whole lot of pain.

## Acts 16

*(23) After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. (24) When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.*

## Acts 16

*(25) About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them*

## Acts 16

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

## Acts 16

*(27) The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped.*

## Acts 16

*(28) But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!” (29) The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. (30) He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”*

## Acts 16

*(31) They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” (32) Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house.*

## Acts 16

*(33) At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. (34) The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.*

## Acts 16

*(39) They came to appease them and escorted them from the prison, requesting them to leave the city.*

Paul was able to sing because he knew the hands that were crucified for his sins were the hands that have control over this trial.





Thank you, God for the times You have said "no."  
They have helped me depend on You so much more.

Thank you, God, for unanswered prayer. It reminds  
me that You know what's best for me, even when my  
opinion differs from Yours.

Thank You, Lord, for the things you have withheld from me. You have protected me from what I may never realize.

Thank You, God, for the doors You have closed. They have prevented me from going where You would rather not have me go.

Thank you, Lord, for the physical pain You've allowed in my life. It has helped me more closely relate to Your sufferings on my behalf.

Thank you, Lord, for the alone times in my life. Those times have forced me to lean in closer to You.

Thank you, God, for the uncertainties I've experienced.  
They have deepened my trust in You.

Thank You, Lord, for the times You came through for  
me when I didn't even know I needed a rescue.

Thank You, Lord, for the losses I have experienced.  
They have been a reminder that You are my greatest  
gain.

Thank You, God, for the tears I have shed. They have  
kept my heart soft and moldable.

Thank You, God, for the times I haven't been able to control my circumstances. They have reminded me that You are sovereign and on the throne.

Thank You, God, for those people in my life whom You have called home to be with You. Their absence from this earth keeps my heart longing for heaven.

Thank You, God for my family and friends who have been with me and stood by me, they have truly been your visible face.

Thank You, God, for the greatest gift You could ever give me: forgiveness through Your perfect Son's death on the cross on my behalf.

And thank You, Lord, not only for my eternal salvation, but for the salvation You afford every day of my life as You save me from myself, my foolishness, my own limited insights, and my frailties in light of Your power and strength.