



Decade of Availability Midnight Prayer

Remember the first time you got to stay up till midnight? Remember the last time you were still up at midnight and could not get to sleep? Are there times when you feel like you are in a prison at midnight?

Introduction: Since Paul and Silas left Antioch the Holy Spirit has twice told them to NOT go somewhere and then in a vision to go to Macedonia. Each step of the way to Philippi has been filled with surprises and challenges. It all comes together in a jail at midnight.

A. Praying at Philippi Acts 16:16-18

1. **Prayer by the river:** v. 16 “And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying.”

2. **Prayer of deliverance:** v. 18 “But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, ‘I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.’ **NOTE:** Paul deals with an annoying circumstance in the power of the Spirit!

Have you taken authority over the works of the enemy in your life?

B. Imprisoned at Philippi Acts 16:19-24

1. **Troubling a city:** v. 20 The slave girl’s owners were upset about their lost income and took Paul and Silas to the city leaders and said, “These men being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city.” The leaders toss them in jail!

Who have you troubled lately because of following the Holy Spirit?

C. Praise at Philippi Acts 16:25-34

1. **Was this part of the plan?** There was nothing about jail in the vision to go to Macedonia. But Paul had learned to be more concerned about His (God’s) purpose than his plans.

2. **Prison to praise:** They were chained and likely bound in stocks and yet at midnight they prayed and sang praises to God. The entire prison heard them.

- The earthquake: The doors are opened
- The message: Believe on the Lord
- The guard: His heart is opened

3. **What about you?**

- What will you do about your prison?
- What will you do about your midnight?

God desires to turn our midnights into victory:

The depth of our past determines the height of our future.

“...but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

II Corinthians 4:14-18 KJV

Acts 16:25-34 (KJV)

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.

Habakkuk 3:17-19 (KJV)

17 Although the fig tree shall not blossom, Neither shall fruit be in the vines; The labour of the olive shall fail, And the fields shall yield no meat; The flock shall be cut off from the fold, And there shall be no herd in the stalls:

18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

19 The LORD God is my strength, And he will make my feet like hinds’ feet, And he will make me to walk upon mine high places.

I Thessalonians 5:18 (KJV)

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.