

THE POWER OF PRAISE

Acts 16:6-40

The persecuted praise

Paul and Silas progress

Asia closed and the call to Europe (6-10)

Philippi, Lydia and the ladies' prayer meeting (11-15)

Slave girl and the mob (16-24)

Jail house rock (25-34)

PRAISE IS AN ATTITUDE ADJUSTER.

NOT = Positive Mental Attitude – you take control

Praise focuses on what you **cannot** control.

Praise is an act of **dependence**

Praise is an act of **faith**

Circumstances seek to strangle us into the **earthly**.

Praise lifts us to live in the reality of **heaven**.

Psalm 34:1-4

⇒ Too often we wait to praise until the trial is over and we see the **resolution**. (see Ps 103:1-6)

⇒ Praise pulls me to actively apply the unchanging character of God to my vacillating **experience**.

⇒ Praise is an offering that includes **sacrifice**!

Hebrews 13:15 ... *let us continually offer up a **sacrifice** of praise to God ...*

PRAISE IS A PATH OF PROVISION. (16:25-26)

Others also **benefit**

At times, praising God in our situations seems naturally **outrageous**, but is part of God's provision.

God's deliverance, including the **timing**, is always perfect according to his eternal plan.

Praising God in and for the "prison experiences" liberates us to **rest** in his provision.

PRAISE OPENS DOORS TO MINISTRY. (16:25-40)

Other prisoners (25-26)

Jailer (27-34)

Magistrates (35-39)

Believers in Lydia's house (40)

Living in active praise for everything, doors of ministry can open for us, too!

What is the place of praise in your life?

Where is God prompting you to praise this morning?