

Giving Thanks In Tough Times

Part One

I Thessalonians 5:18a & Acts 16:22-26

#1 - A Place Of Pain, vs. 22-24

Paul and Silas were telling people about God's love and forgiveness and were stripped, beaten and imprisoned. Here they are, being obedient to God, and they receive pain and suffering. How do you feel when pain and suffering enter your life?

#2 - A Place Of Thanks, vs. 25

What would have been your attitude to God if you were Paul and Silas? Would you have praised God or blamed God? What is your response to God when pain and suffering enter your life? Paul and Silas understood that God is good and loves us unconditionally. Resting in the character of God allows us to give thanks in everything and that is exactly what Paul and Silas did.

Look at what James wrote about our attitude should be in times of pain. James 1:2-4 tells us that God uses trials in our lives to make us more like His Son, Jesus. How can I be joyful or thankful when trials enter my life, by knowing that God is at work in my life. God promised in Romans 8:28 that He will bring good out of everything that happens in my life, even the bad things. This is how to give thanks in tough times. So, let's rejoin Paul and Silas singing and praising God in the Philippian jail.

#3 - A Place Of Deliverance, vs. 26

Paul and Silas' time of suffering had come to an end and know they were to experience God's purpose and plan for them. It's important to point out that they praised God and gave thanks before God's deliverance. In God's time, He supernaturally released them from jail and it is here where we finally get to see God's purpose.

While they were in the city of Philippi, God was interested in bringing salvation to the city's jailer and his family. Now, how does God get Paul and Silas, fresh off a boat from Asia to meet the city jailer? Naturally, He gets them tossed into jail and frees them supernaturally so that the jailer and his family will not only hear the message, but believe it as well.