



The Year of New Experiences

Presented by Pastor Daren L. Barron

Sermon Notes from December 28, 2008

Acts 16:16-35 (Contemporary English Version)

16 One day on our way to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl. She had a spirit in her that gave her the power to tell the future. By doing this she made a lot of money for her owners. 17 The girl followed Paul and the rest of us and kept yelling, "These men are servants of the Most High God! They are telling you how to be saved."

18 This went on for several days. Finally, Paul got so upset that he turned and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ, I order you to leave this girl alone!" At once the evil spirit left her.

19 When the girl's owners realized that they had lost all chances for making more money, they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them into court. 20 They told the officials, "These Jews are upsetting our city! 21 They are telling us to do things we Romans are not allowed to do."

22 The crowd joined in the attack on Paul and Silas. Then the officials tore the clothes off the two men and ordered them to be beaten with a whip. 23 After they had been badly beaten, they were put in jail, and the jailer was told to guard them carefully. 24 The jailer did as he was told. He put them deep inside the jail and chained their feet to heavy blocks of wood. 25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing praises to God, while the other prisoners listened. 26 Suddenly a strong earthquake shook the jail to its foundations. The doors opened, and the chains fell from all the prisoners. 27 When the jailer woke up and saw that the doors were open, he thought that the prisoners had escaped. He pulled out his sword and was about to kill himself. 28 But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! No one has escaped."

29 The jailer asked for a torch and went into the jail. He was shaking all over as he knelt down in front of Paul and Silas. 30 After he had led them out of the jail, he asked, "What must I do to be saved?" 31 They replied, "Have faith in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved! This is also true for everyone who lives in your home." 32 Then Paul and Silas told him and everyone else in his house about the Lord. 33 While it was still night, the jailer took them to a place where he could wash their cuts and bruises. Then he and everyone in his home were baptized. 34 They were very glad that they had put their faith in God. After this, the jailer took Paul and Silas to his home and gave them something to eat. 35 The next morning the officials sent some police with orders for the jailer to let Paul and Silas go.

- **Praise your way out!**



How should we praise?

Psalm 9:1-2,11 (New King James Version)

1 I will praise You, O LORD, with my **whole heart**; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. 2 I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will **sing** praise to Your name, O Most High.

11 **Sing** praises to the LORD, who dwells in Zion! Declare His deeds among the people.

Psalm 33:2-4 (New King James Version)

2 Praise the LORD with the **harp**; Make melody to Him with **an instrument** of ten strings. 3 **Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy.** 4 For the word of the LORD is right, And all His work is done in truth.

Psalm 34:1 (New King James Version)

His praise shall **continually** be in my mouth.

Hebrews 13:15 (New King James Version)

15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the **sacrifice** of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

Psalm 100:4 (New King James Version)

4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

Psalm 100:4 (The Message)

4 Enter with the password: "Thank you!" Make yourselves at home, talking praise. Thank him. Worship him.

- God inhabits your praise! **Psalms 22:3**
- Praise is the ramp to worship.
- Praise is the fuel, worship is the vehicle, and obedience is the instruction that makes the vehicle move.

How We Should Worship

1 Chronicles 16:29 (New King James Version)

29 Give to the LORD the glory due His name; **Bring an offering**, and come before Him. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness!



Psalm 96:8-9 (New King James Version)

8 Give to the LORD the glory due His name; **Bring an offering**, and come into His courts. 9 Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth.

Psalm 95:6 (New King James Version)

6 Oh come, let us worship and **bow down**; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

John 4:24 (New King James Version)

24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in **spirit and truth.**"

Romans 12:1 (Amplified Bible)

1 I APPEAL to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to **make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice**, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship.

Don't stop praising God!

Matthew 7:7-8 (Amplified Bible)

7 Keep on asking and it will be given you; keep on seeking and you will find; keep on knocking [reverently] and [the door] will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who keeps on asking receives; and he who keeps on seeking finds; and to him who keeps on knocking, [the door] will be opened.

1 Peter 4:12 (The Message)

12-13 Friends, when life gets really difficult, don't jump to the conclusion that God isn't on the job. Instead, be glad that you are in the very thick of what Christ experienced. This is a spiritual refining process, with glory just around the corner.

Galatians 6:9 (New Living Translation)

9 So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.

Praise your way out!

- Make a **choice** to praise Him!
- Make Christ the **center** of your thoughts
- Make **confessions** of faith!
- Make sure you **conform** to the word and not the world