



UNDER PRESSURE

UNDER PRESSURE, PART 2: STAY IN THE PRESSURE

Should I stay, or should I go now? If I go, there will be trouble. And if I stay, it will be double. So come on and let me know. Not only are those the lyrics from a song by the band called “The Clash”, that is also the clash Jesus followers find themselves in. The one where we ask ourselves, “Should we stay or should we go?” Oftentimes the pressure-filled circumstances and situations that God allows us to be placed are on purpose. Many times staying isn’t to benefit us in the here and now, but to save others for eternity.

THE BIG IDEA: Jesus followers stay in the pressure.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How often do you avoid pressure?
2. What pressure do you most often find yourself trying to find freedom from?
3. Did you ever do something you thought was God’s will and end up in the hard situation anyways?
(Like Paul casting out the spirit and ending up in prison)
4. With your Bible or Bible App, read Acts 16:16-24
The crowd joined in an attack against them, and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them and proceeded to order them to be beaten with rods. 23 When they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely; 24 and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.
Acts 16:22-24 NASB
5. Have you ever been in a situation where you were trying to do God’s will of proclaiming Jesus and received opposition like (not exactly like) Paul and Silas faced? If yes, how so? If no, is it because you don’t proclaim Jesus?
6. What is the last hard situation or circumstance you ran from the moment the “prison door” flew open?
7. With your Bible or bible App, read Acts 16:25-34
Now about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to 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 everyone’s chains were unfastened. 27 When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, thinking that the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul called out with a loud voice, saying, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!” 29 And the jailer asked for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear, he fell down before Paul and Silas; 30 and after he brought them out, he said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”
The Jailer Converted
31 They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” 32 And they spoke the word of God to him together with all who were in his house. 33 And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household. 34 And he brought them into his house and set food before them, and was overjoyed, since he had become a believer in God together with his whole household.
8. What “pressure” situation are you in now? What might God be trying to do for those around you?

9. What would happen if you just left?

THINK ABOUT IT

Someone is waiting for the light that Jesus died to place inside of you. We never know what God can do in the hard circumstances that he places us in. We never know what beauty can come from the pressure God allows us to face. More importantly we don't know who's eternity might be at stake.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Maybe you are considering quitting your job, and maybe you should. Maybe you are thinking of ending a friendship, and perhaps that is the wise choice. However, have you prayed and asked for wisdom and discernment to know what to do? God would love to hear from you in prayers and songs of praise.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

1 Peter 4:12-13

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though something strange were happening to you; 13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that at the revelation of His glory you may also rejoice and be overjoyed.