

Devotion 5: Our Worship During Affliction Is a Witness to a Lost World

Acts 16:25–34 (ESV) About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake... And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone’s bonds were unfastened... Then he [the jailer] brought them out and said, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ And they said, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.’... And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.”

Paul and Silas had been unjustly beaten and imprisoned, yet at midnight they prayed and sang hymns to God. Their praise wasn’t quiet or hidden—the other prisoners were listening. God responded with an earthquake that shook the prison, opened every door, and loosed every chain. But Paul and Silas didn’t flee; they stayed, saving the jailer’s life and leading him (and his whole household) to salvation through faith in Jesus.

Their worship in affliction directly correlated with freedom—spiritual and physical. In dark times, when we feel like we’re walking through the valley of the shadow of death, we too can praise God. Why? Because this life isn’t all there is. God is at work in us (strengthening us), for us (delivering us), and through us (witnessing to others). When a lost world sees our unwavering devotion amid suffering, it points them to the hope we have in Christ—an anchor for the soul that steadies us in storms. Our praise declares: Nothing compares to knowing Jesus.

Seek Week isn’t just for our church—it’s for us to be witnesses to the world around us. Let your praise be known, no matter the circumstances.

During this Seek Week, let’s worship in faith. Pray using the pattern: “He is Worthy” (praise amid suffering and hope) and “We are Needy” (intercession and commitment to witness).

PRAY

HE IS WORTHY

Lord, even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I praise You for

_____.

(Examples to fill in: Your promise of eternal life beyond this suffering; the hope of Jesus’ return to make all things new; the new heavens and new earth where pain will be no more; Your presence that never leaves me in trials; the refining work You do through hardship; the victory already won through the cross; the joy set before us that sustains us now.)

WE ARE NEEDY:

- Lord, I know someone suffering who needs to trust in You. I pray for _____ (name them) by name—draw them to You in their pain, and use my life as a witness.
- Even though I face _____ (name your affliction), I will praise You.
- Lord, let my praise be a witness to the lost around me—may they see Your hope in me and ask, “What must I do to be saved?”

Closing Prayer

- Heavenly Father, thank You that worship in affliction is powerful. Help me praise You no matter what, trusting You are at work. Let my life point others to Jesus, our true hope. In His name, Amen.

Go forward today praising Him: Our worship during affliction is a witness—because He is worthy, and the world is watching. Your praise can lead someone to salvation.