

PUSH THROUGH

3-3-24

Listen closely, CFA – the Holy Spirit was not just suggesting that 2024 would be a year of revival, I believe His prophetic utterance was meant to take to heart and pursued with great expectation, to see everything He has prepared for us and we've seen this with increasing power each and every week!

Yes, this movement will be met with resistance so we must push through!

Every day seek fresh infilling of His Spirit because that will produce the “enduring evidence” of the Holy Spirit in your life which comes with endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry!

To be revival will require us to push through!

Acts 16:16-35 Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.” ¹⁸ She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!” At that moment the spirit left her.

¹⁹ When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. ²⁰ They brought them before the magistrates and said, “These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar ²¹ by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.”

²² The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. ²³ After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. ²⁴ When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. ²⁷ The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

²⁹ The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

³¹ They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." ³² Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ³³ At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. ³⁴ The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

³⁵ When it was daylight, the magistrates sent their officers to the jailer with the order: "Release those men."

Paul and Silas were chosen vessels of the NT church to be revival wherever they went, they were to represent Christ and proclaim the gospel to every person God directed them to.

Just because you're saved, called, filled, and experiencing revival doesn't mean you won't face hardships and trials

Have you already determined in your mind I will push through every adversity that comes my way?

When you've already resolved that issue, then like Paul and Silas you know there's only one thing to do – push through!

What does this passage teach us about pushing through?

1. HARDSHIPS WILL ARISE

Here Paul and Silas were spreading the gospel and being revival. They were doing the Lord's works and they cast the spirit of divination out of a slave girl

She was free immediately but her owners were upset because they lose their source of income

V. 19-24 Read from Bible

Drug into the marketplace, the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. After being flogged severely, they threw them into the inner cell of the prison and fastened their feet in stocks

Can anybody say unfair and unjust? These men were God's chosen!

John 16:33 NKJV These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you ^[a]will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Tribulation – pressure, oppression, stress, anguish, adversity, affliction, crushing, squashing, squeezing, and distress – but Jesus said be of good cheer, I have overcome the world!

We can have peace in hardships because of our certainty of Christ's victory

The Lord spoke of several unexpected hardships that have hit some of your lives – heartache, failure, slipping back into old habits, grief, depression, regrets, hurt from someone –

The Lord told me to tell you none of these things will overcome you because He has already overcome them for you! v. 33

2. DETERMINED TO PUSH THROUGH

V. 23-25 Bible

Stripped, humiliated, and flogged they were thrown into the inner cell and bound in stocks like a convicted felon

But know this today church, before any of this happened, Paul and Silas had already resolved in their hearts that no matter what, we will serve Jesus – it was their only option

Church, if you resolve right now to push through to Jesus in every hardship it removes all other options

That's how even in their darkest time of trials they were able to lift up their voices to God

**Isaiah 54:17 NIV no weapon forged against you will prevail,
and you will refute every tongue that accuses you.
This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord,
and this is their vindication from me,"
declares the Lord.**

3. PRAISE BECOMES OUR WEAPON OF CHOICE

V. 25-26

We underestimate the power of praise so often. Praise says circumstances can't take my peace or steal my joy.

Praise says I'm not who my trials say I am, I am who He says I am

Paul and Silas were not only in prison, but their feet looked in stocks, they had no way out of this situation in the natural

So they chose the weapon of praise, knowing it would unlock their minds from the natural to the supernatural, but low and behold, it also did the miraculous!

v. 26

Psalm 150 Praise the Lord.^[a]

**Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heavens.**

**² Praise him for his acts of power;
praise him for his surpassing greatness.**

**³ Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,
praise him with the harp and lyre,**

**⁴ praise him with timbrel and dancing,
praise him with the strings and pipe,**

**⁵ praise him with the clash of cymbals,
praise him with resounding cymbals.**

⁶Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord.

Praise is a full response of both God's greatness and goodness. It becomes a powerful response that unlocks our hearts to express joy and gratitude

Praise is a weapon to be used!

2 Cor 10:3,4 NIV For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. ⁴The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

4. YOU'RE BEING MONITORED

V. 25-27

Monitored – to pay continual close attention to (something or someone) for a particular purpose

They're looking for freedom in their own life and they're seeing if that's what you have

Church, Paul and Silas' praise not only opened their prison doors and their stocks on their feet – come on! – it said ALL doors and everybody's chains came loose!

So why are you being monitored?

They're hoping you have the answer to unlock the doors of their imprisonment and the chains of mistakes

Paul and Silas commitment to push through in praise not only opened doors, but led to the very one who placed them in their cell and chains to be saved and his whole family!

CFA to be revival you must resolve to push through and remember others are monitoring your life and hoping they can count on you!