



PRAYER SERVICE WEDNESDAY, JULY 8TH, 7PM

Join us on our [Facebook Page](#) at 7:00pm or on YouTube. You can use this guide to pray with us any time from wherever you are.

- **INTRO**

Welcome to another prayer service! We've said this before, but it's worth repeating: there is nothing more important we could be doing right now that grounding our lives in prayer and worship. This is an ongoing challenge, but one worth taking together! So, continue to be devoted to prayer, continue to invite others and share these videos, continue to seek the Lord no matter what you're feeling. Stick with it, stand firm. Today, we're enjoying another guided prayer and reflection from the Lectio365 app by 24/7 Prayer International (Lectio365 "Out of the Overflow," July 6th, 2020 by Phil Togwell). In this reflection, we're looking at a remarkable story in Acts 16 of Paul and Silas worshiping and praying in prison. It might have been about this experience that Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 1:8-11, "*We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.*" If you can identify with these words right now, or have experienced this in some way during the season we're in, then you're in the right place today. Let's pray.

- **PAUSE**

As I enter prayer now, I pause to be still; to breathe slowly; to re-center my scattered senses upon the presence of God.

Pause and pray

Creator God, who formed us from dust, breathe in me again. Give me a new imagination to perceive new possibilities today.

- **REJOICE & REFLECT**

I rejoice in God's presence today, joining with the ancient praise of all God's people in the words of Psalm 27:

***The one thing I ask of the LORD—
the thing I seek most—
is to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,***

***delighting in the LORD's perfections
and meditating in his Temple.***

Today, I'm reflecting on Paul and Silas in Philippi. A slave girl who could predict the future had been following them for a few days, calling out, 'These men are servants of the Most High!' Paul knew that she had an evil spirit inside her, and so he commanded it to leave her. When her owners realized that the girl was no longer able to predict the future and so she wouldn't make them any more money, they weren't happy.

Acts 16:20–25

"They brought [Paul and Silas] before the magistrates and said, 'These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.' The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them."

In January 1736, on a ship bound for America, John Wesley met a group of Moravian missionaries. In his diary, Wesley wrote about their servant-heartedness, and their lack of complaint when they were 'struck or thrown down'. He was especially impressed, however, during a terrible storm when 'the sea broke over, split the main-sail in pieces, covered the ship, and poured in between the decks, as if the great deep had already swallowed us up'. 'A terrible screaming began among the English,' he wrote, 'but the [Moravians] sang on.' (John Wesley, *The Diary of John Wesley*, pg. 18
https://onlinechristianlibrary.com/wp_content/uploads/2019/05/wesley_journal.pdf)

Just like Paul and Silas, these Moravian missionaries had discovered that grateful praise and prayer overflows from an inner life of faith; it is not dependent on the outer circumstances of life.

• **ASK**

What does the 'flow' of my life feel like right now? Does it feel like circumstances are flowing in, 'pouring between the decks' of my life, or am I overflowing with grateful praise and prayer, irrespective of the circumstances?

I ask You, God, to fill me with Your Spirit so that I overflow.

Pause and pray

The prisoners were listening to Paul and Silas as they sang and prayed. John Wesley was listening to the Moravian missionaries as they sang during the storm. Who is listening to my life at the moment? What do I think they are hearing?

God, help me to sing and pray with a grateful heart, so that others may come to know You. Pause and pray

- **YIELD**

As I return to the passage, I open my ears to hear Your Word, and my heart to yield to Your will once again.

Acts 16:20–25

“They brought [Paul and Silas] before the magistrates and said, ‘These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.’ The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.”

Paul and Silas were on their way to the place of prayer, a public space beside a river, when the slave girl with the evil spirit began to follow them. Not long afterwards, Paul and Silas were beaten with rods and whips, imprisoned in an inner cell, shackled and guarded closely. They were humiliated and hurt, incarcerated and isolated – they had nothing whatsoever to be glad or grateful about – and yet they chose to do what they had originally intended to do at the river: to praise God and pray together. Paul and Silas learned to pray in all circumstances; beside the river with friends, and alone in prison. Prayer everywhere.

Pause and pray

I yield to You, Jesus. Help me to pray continually today, wherever I am, whatever the circumstances. Help me to listen to You. I am grateful that God promises to listen to me too. Jeremiah says, ‘Then you will call on me and come and pray to me (says the Lord) and I will listen to you.’ (Jeremiah 29:12)

- **Closing Prayer**

Father, help me to live this day to the full, being true to You, in every way. Jesus, help me to give myself away to others, being kind to everyone I meet. Spirit, help me to love the lost, proclaiming Christ in all I do and say. Amen.

- **SONGS**

“How Great Thou Art” Click Here - <https://youtu.be/EueRjHaGbS4>

VERSE 1

O Lord my God
When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds
Thy hands have made

I see the stars
I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout
The universe displayed

CHORUS

Then sings my soul
My Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art
How great Thou art
Then sings my soul
My Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art
How great Thou art

VERSE 2

When through the woods
And forest glades I wander
And hear the birds
Sing sweetly in the trees
When I look down
From lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook
And feel the gentle breeze

VERSE 3

And when I think
That God His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die
I scarce can take it in
That on the cross
My burden gladly bearing
He bled and died
To take away my sin

VERSE 4

When Christ shall come
With shout of acclamation
And take me home
What joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow
In humble adoration
And there proclaim
My God how great Thou art

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“Goodness of God” Click Here - <https://youtu.be/lvSuGyJQ6oM>

VERSE 1

I love You Lord
Oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days
I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

VERSE 2

I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest night
You are close like no other
I've known You as a father
I've known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God

CHORUS

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

BRIDGE

Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now
I give You everything
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me

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