

GOD'S PURPOSES IN PAIN - PART 8

FOR PRAISE

It is crucial to have a **Biblical understanding** of God's character. We are *looking at various reasons* God allows, or ordains problems in life, which includes to **Prove**, or test us; to **Purify** us from sinful and selfish things; for our **Progress** in the faith, or maturity; for **Patience**, and **Preparation** for dealing with future problems, and receiving the blessings God can and will give as we follow Him. We also *long for eternity* more. God wants us to depend on His **Power**, *rather than our powerlessness*.

We will look at *another difficult reason* God brings or allows *problems* in our life: for **Praise**. Yes, God does all things for *His glory and purpose*. We know we are to *give thanks in and for all things*. While we may not praise Him for all things, we can **praise Him through all things!**

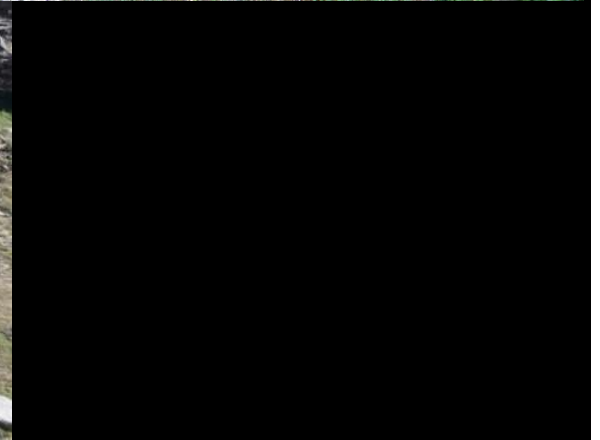
Acts 16:16-26 - As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. 17She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." 18And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the

name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.”
And it came out that very hour. 19But when
her owners saw that their hope of gain was
gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged
them into the marketplace before the rulers.
20And when they had brought them to the
magistrates, they said, “These men are Jews,
and they are disturbing our city. 21They
advocate customs that are not lawful for us
as Romans to accept or practice.” 22The

crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. 23And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. 24Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. 25About midnight Paul and Silas were **praying** and **singing hymns to God**, and

the prisoners were listening to them, 26and 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 bonds were unfastened.

**What many believe
to be Silas' and
Paul's prison in
Philippi.**



This was after they were forcefully grabbed, had their clothing ripped off of them, accused of something they didn't do, beaten again, and **THEN** thrown in the inner prison! This was reserved for those who committed serious crimes or were of a low social status. The stocks were metal bars that pressed on their legs. They *could not shift position* and the only way to sleep was to *sit or lay on the floor*. What did they do? ***They prayed to and praised God!***

I believe **prayer** and **praise** go together. If we are not praying, we will not praise. If we do not praise, we will have difficulty praying at times too.

Think of *King David*...

2 Samuel 12:19-20 - But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David understood that the child was dead. And David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" They said, "He is dead." 20Then David arose from the earth and washed and anointed himself and changed his clothes. And he went into the house [*Tabernacle*] of the LORD and **worshiped**. He then went to his own house. And when he asked, they set food before him, and he ate.

David's sin caused this situation. But he got back into a right relationship with God before this. He was intensely praying to God, who could heal the child if He chose. Yet, after the baby died, David worshipped God. Job is another example. He lost nearly everything, grieved, but did what?

Job 1:20-21 - Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and **worshipped**. 21And he said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. **The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.**”

A. Why Don't We Praise God in Problems?

1. We focus on **ourselves**
2. We focus on the **problems**
3. We focus on our **comfort**
4. We focus on the **enemy**
5. We **blame**
6. We are **overly emotional**
7. We are **angry**
8. We focus on the **pain**
9. We **whine** and **complain**

A. Why Don't We Praise God in Problems?

- 10. We focus on our perspective**
- 11. We focus on our personality**
- 12. We forget God is faithful**
- 13. We forget God's promises**
- 14. We forget who God is**
- 15. We fall into the trap of the enemy**
- 16. We are walking by sight rather than faith**
- 17. We walk by the flesh rather than the Spirit**

A. Why Don't We Praise God in Problems?

18. We focus on what we think should take place

19. We are in sin and refuse to repent

B. Praise in This Life

James 1:2-4 - Count it all **joy**, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

B. Praise in This Life

Romans 5:3-5 - Not only that, but we **rejoice** in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

B. Praise in This Life

James told his readers to *count it all joy*, or an *opportunity for great joy*, regarding the trials we face, that are not as a result of our sin, but *living righteously*. Paul talks about a lot about *this life* in *Romans 5:1-11*, and includes **3 things** we rejoice in or boast in:

1. We have **peace with God** and **hope** - vs 1-2.
2. We are **reconciled to God** - vs 9-11.
3. We know the **results of suffering** - vs 3-5.

C. Praise in This Life

We can praise God in this life, during pain or a problem, because He has told us the result. We studied maturity, or our *Progress in the faith*, and this is **one reason why we can praise Him**. It is *not easy, nor is it empty*, but a sincere faith, based on the knowledge that God, in the end, ***will complete His purpose and work in our life.***

C. Praise at the Second Coming

1 Peter 1:6-7 - In this you **rejoice**, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7so that the tested genuineness of your faith - more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire - may be found to result in **praise** and **glory** and honor at the **revelation of Jesus Christ**.

C. Praise at the Second Coming

Peter generally is referring to persecution and suffering for doing what is right, but the principles apply to problems and pain we face. He says we rejoice now in suffering. But as James and Paul, Peter also points to the result of the testing or problems, referring to our faith. We looked at this and you listen or watch the lesson on Proving or Testing our faith, to see where it is, and to strengthen it.

C. Praise at the Second Coming

We will *praise the Lord in eternity*, and Peter connects the work God does currently in our life to praise Him, *to the return of Jesus*. He says the result will be praise, glory and honor at the *revelation or return* of Christ. They were going through difficult times then, and *at the end of this age*, before Christ's return, *Christians and Jews will go through even more difficult times*.

D. Principles to Help Us Praise God in Pain

- 1. Accept** What the Lord Gives
- 2. Pour Out** Your Heart to the Lord
- 3. Remember** the Eternal Blessings You Have in Christ
- 4. Choose** to Praise Him