



Cornerstone
CHURCH

Follow Jesus in a Life of Praise

Praise in the Midnight Hour

Pastor Mark Lehmann

November 23, 2025

"Praise is the sunshine of the soul. No matter how deep the darkness, God's light is greater."

Corrie Ten Boom

THEIR OBEDIENCE LED THEM INTO SUFFERING

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. 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." 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. 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. They brought them 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.

Acts 16:16-24 NIV

- The presence of pain is not the absence of God
- The presence of suffering does not erase the calling of God
- Sometimes the most difficult places are exactly where God is working His greatest miracles even when we don't see it

PRAISE IN THE MIDNIGHT HOUR

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.

Acts 16:25 NIV

Midnight is the darkest hour—symbolically and literally

Our Greatest Songs of Praise Often Come from Our Deepest Struggles

“Anyone can be happy in pleasant circumstances, but real joy comes only from within, and is a gift available to Christians at all times. Instead of cursing men, they blessed God.”

John Stott

“Praise is the weapon that pulls down the curtains of despair.”

Beth Moore

PRAISE INVITES GOD INTO THE IMPOSSIBLE

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.

Acts 16:26 NIV

PRAISE OPENED THE DOOR FOR SALVATION

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. But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!" The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. 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.

Acts 16:27-34 NIV

PRAISE IS ANCHORED IN GOD'S CHARACTER

"The deepest things I have learned in my own life came through suffering. And the deepest praise has come from experiencing God in the midst of it."

Elisabeth Elliot