

SUMMER SERIES: CHANGED BY JESUS
THE PHILIPPIAN JAILER: FROM TRYING TO TRUSTING
ACTS 16:16-34

¹⁶Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortunetelling. ¹⁷This girl 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." ¹⁸She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled 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. ¹⁹When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. ²⁰They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar ²¹by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice." ²²The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. ²³After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. ²⁴Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. ²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose. ²⁷The 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. ²⁸But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!" ²⁹The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas.

³⁰He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household."

³²Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ³³At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. ³⁴The 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 family."

I. It's not about trying, but about trusting

A. The do-more, try-harder way of living.

Vs. 30: "what must I do to be saved?"

Vs. 31: "They replied, 'believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household'."

B. The trusting (The Lord Jesus) way of living.

Hebrews 11:6 "Without faith, it is impossible to please God."

II. **Joy** is a result of this life of trust in the Lord Jesus

1. Example of Paul and Silas

Acts 16:6-10: Trusting God meant going in the opposite direction

Vs. 25: "About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God..."

2. The Philippian Jailer – vs. 34: "He was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God – he and his whole family."