

KINGDOM ADVANCING PRAYER

Mark: 1:35 & Matt: 11: 11-12

From the desk of Elder Michael Scantlebury

Destroying Demonic Foundations

Read Acts 16: 6-40

This particular account records the story of the Apostle Paul's invasion into Macedonian territory. It also gives us all the events that took place as he aggressively proceeded towards a mighty breakthrough in that territory.

Let us now extract some vital principles from this awesome account.

- Submission to the Holy Spirit is vital (**verses 6-7**)
- The Lord is the orchestrator and architect of all genuine spiritual invasions. He gives Paul a vision in **verse 9**, in which a man calls him into Macedonia. This is very important and significant in the taking of any territory for the Lord. Because of the vision, Paul is confident as he steps into the territory. As a matter of fact it is this confidence that gives muscle to his faith in the time of crisis. We need to have this same clarity of conviction or we can become very distressed in the heat of the battle.
- The Lord always has individuals who are divine connections for the furtherance of His purpose inside the territory of the enemy, even before we arrive to blast through with the will of God. Remember the children of Israel under the leadership of Joshua as they arrived at the threshold of the Land of Promise. (**Joshua 2: 1-11**) Here we see Joshua sending out some spies and the first thing that they found out is that God had already planted an ally deep in the heart of enemy territory. Rehab described the reality of the situation to the spies ("**The Rehab Reality**"):

"and she said to them: 'I know that the Lord has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. 'For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. 'And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath."

What an awesome reality, I believe that demonic powers in this territory have come into the revelation of the "**Rehab Reality**". In the account in **Acts 16** it is Lydia the Lord has set up to facilitate the furtherance of His purpose. She opens wide her house for Paul and Silas **verse 15**.

- Please understand however that there is no penetration of demonic territory without a fierce battle, even though there is the "**Rehab Reality**" or The Lydia Connection, the devil will still fight and try to negate these tremendous revelations.
- From the very foundation of this awesome work of demolishing the strongholds of the enemy and establishing the kingdom of God in that territory, the spirit of divination manifests itself in a woman. The spirit of divination is also known as a familiar spirit (one that masquerades itself as the manifestation of the Holy Spirit, but it is not) or a psychic spirit.

This spirit (**verses 16-18**) seeks to pollute the purity of their invasion by attempting to deceive them into accepting demonic help (pretending to be filled with the Holy Spirit) in bringing forth the purpose of God. The demon speaking through the young girl is speaking truth but that spirit and its motive are defiled and wrong. Please let us understand that there can be no accurate invasion in this territory without a commitment to purity, our motives must be pure.

I declare to you that every attempt by anyone to try and manipulate this move of God will be met with dire consequences from the Holy Spirit.

- Because of their discernment and rebuke of that false spirit Paul and Silas find themselves in prison after suffering a severe beating. We must never be motivated by fear in pioneering anything for the Lord; we must stand firm in our convictions to the purpose of the Lord. We must function under “High Passion” for the move and things of the Lord. We must be zealous for the move of God. Because of the deep conviction and confidence in their hearts that they were in the will of God, they released their most mighty weapon against the powers of darkness. At midnight (**verse 25**) this represented the worst stage of the situation, it is at that point these men drew on their inner revelation of God and began to enter into kingdom advancing prayer and to sing the high praises to God. What a mighty revelation! Saints this is AWESOME!

As we continue in our Kingdom Advancing Prayer let us maintain our intensity of High Praise and Worship! We are fighting for a significant breakthrough into this territory. In the book of **Psalms 149** we see the power of High Praise.

- Something powerful then happens because of their prayer, praise, their revelation and faith. A massive earthquake destroyed the foundations of the prison and the prison doors were opened and all the prisoners’ chains were supernaturally broken and the captives were set free. The entire city is broken open and salvation is released to the jailer and his entire household. We have to believe that the same will be accomplished in this territory.
- Even the higher powers, represented by the magistrates (a type of the principalities that are established over any region) had to bow to these men, who were flowing in the power of the Holy Spirit. In **verses 35-36** we see these powers trying to have Paul and Silas depart in peace and not to be brought to shame, but Paul wisely refuses and makes them bow and beg for them to depart from the territory. What an awesome victory, we can expect the same.

Please understand, that our faith, revelation, prayer and praise are still as strong and vital to the work of God as it was in the days of the book of Acts. Let us consider these things as we continue the battle for the purposes of the Lord in this territory and in the nations of the earth. Be encouraged and strengthened saints.

PRAYER FOCUS

- For the breaking of every demonic spirit attempting to manipulate the forward thrust of our ministry into this region.
- For Elder Michael and Andrei as they provide leadership for the ministry.
- Breakthrough in an entrepreneurial anointing in our ministry!

PRAYER FOCUS

- For Pastor Leroy Joseph of Faith Restoration Ministries as he continues to face and battle a Jezebel spirit that has severely attached his ministry. Even the planned trip is now in jeopardy and may be cancelled!
- For the local government of BC as they continue their structural reform for economic growth.