Beyond the Church

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November 8, 2026

The Power of Praise



I. REVIEW/INTRO

A. Beyond the Chorus

- The chorus is usually the part of the song everyone knows
- What if worship is more than music? What if there's a supernatural dimension of worship that we've barely explored?
- **Praise and worship is not simply our response to what God has done. It is an expression of faith in who God is—and an invitation for His presence and power to be manifested in our lives.**

B. Who's right?

- Where's the right place to worship?

John 4:20-21 (NKJV) Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship. Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father

John 4:23 (NKJV) [23] But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

II. THE POWER IN WORSHIP

A. Too often we think of praise and worship as something we do after God moves

- There is a supernatural element in worship

B. A song at midnight

Acts 16:23-24 (NKJV) [23] And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw *them* into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. [24] Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

- **Keener's Exegetical Commentary**: The inner prison was typically the harshest area, with the poorest ventilation and sometimes used to humiliate prisoners.

C. Everyone has a midnight

- Midnight seasons when life doesn't look the way we thought it would.
- Paul and Silas weren't in trouble because they had disobeyed God, but because they had obeyed God

Acts 16:25 (NKJV)[25] But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

D. Worship isn't dependent on circumstances

Psalm 34:1 (NKJV) I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

- **Circumstantial praise says: God, I'll praise You because things are good, this is dependent on what God is doing.**



- **Faith-filled praise says: "God, I'll praise You because You are good. This rests in who God is.**

III. THE MANIFEST PRESENCE AND POWER OF GOD

A. Praise and worship are more than emotional moments

Acts 16:26 (NKJV) 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 chains were loosed.

Psalm 22:3 (NKJV) But You *are* holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel.

- There is a difference between the omnipresence of God and the manifested presence of God.

2 Chronicles 5:13-14 (NKJV) [13] indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers *were* as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the Lord, *saying:* "*For He is* good, For His mercy *endures* forever," that the house, the house of the Lord, was filled with a cloud, [14] so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.

B. Worship makes room for God to move

Acts 13:1 (NKJV) As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them

C. Your worship can be a witness

Acts 16:30-34 (NKJV) [30] And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" [31] So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household. [32] Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. [33] And he took them the same hour of the night and washed *their* stripes. And immediately he and all his *family* were baptized. [34] Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

IV. DON'T LOSE YOUR SONG AT MIDNIGHT

A. When praise is a sacrifice
- Their praise was a declaration that their circumstances didn't have the final word.

B. Don't lose your song at midnight

Hebrews 13:15 (NKJV) "Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name."