

“The Power Of Praise”

Acts 16:25-34

February 18, 2018

“Singing is meant to move us into praise. It provides a medium for the expression of emotion. Through music we express our joy, our thanksgiving. No less than forty-one psalms command us to “sing unto the Lord.”

Celebration of Discipline by Richard J. Foster

I) Praise Transcends Trials: (vs 25)

- A) Singing and praying at midnight is abnormal, but it demonstrates an ability that belongs to every believer.
I Thess 5:16-18
- B) As believers, praise God during trials; there is a supernatural peace that flows into their hearts. Phil.4:4
- C) “The shortest way to happiness and perfection is to make a rule to thank and praise God for everything.”
William Law 1727
- D) The greatest help in praise is to keep your focus on good things. Phil. 4:8

II) Praise Sets Captives Free: (vs 26)

- A) This earthquake was not a coincidence. It happened at a precise time and had a liberating effect.
- B) Praise to God allows the power of God to release the people of God.
Psalm 27:4-6
- C) The 90/10 principle says that 90% of the things that happened to you is beyond your control. The 10% represents your response to what happens to you.

III) Praise Draws Others To Christ: (vs 30)

- A) “When I was a kid I watched the trees bend and limbs wave and decided that created wind. Later, I understood it differently.”
Harry Fosdick
- B) The world rings with praise. The stars, the birds, and the trees all praise God.
- C) The humblest, the most balanced, the most noble minds praise the most, while cranks, misfits, and malcontents praise the least.
- D) Just as men urge us to praise with them what they enjoy, praise does not merely express enjoyment but completes it.