

DYNAMITE!!!

*The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. **About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God**, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly 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. Acts 16:22-26*

I believe this is one of the best examples in Scripture of **rejoicing by faith** ~ and of the dynamic response that can accompany such a sacrifice of praise!

You see, **rejoicing by faith is like spiritual dynamite**; it blows up every scheme of the devil. *Satan has no answer for the saint who sings in the midnight hour* ~ it confounds him and his host.

C.H. Spurgeon called satan “the great dog of hell,” and sometimes it feels like that dog is nipping at your heels and breathing down your neck. The battle gets intense, and situations look like they’re going from bad to worse.

THAT’S THE TIME TO REJOICE BY FAITH! When you have no reason in the natural to praise, your praise is all the more precious of a sacrifice ~ it brings the presence of Him who “inhabits the praises” of His people, and it confounds your foes at the same time.

The great dog of hell is on a leash, the length of which is determined by our loving and perfect Father in Heaven. Your God will not leave you, fail you, forsake you, nor leave you in the hands of your foes! Even if you’re a prisoner (like Paul & Silas, or the 3 Hebrew youth in the fiery furnace), **you are not a victim!** You are **more than a conqueror**, no matter what comes against you. Your God will work it ALL together for your good ~ and everything you go through will bear good spiritual fruit for Jesus’ glory as you continue to praise Him. These afflictions will look “light and momentary” when you stand before His throne in glory, and see the reward of your patience and perseverance.

So be encouraged today ~ God is with you & for you. So let the rejoicing of faith ring forth from your life & lips, even right now!