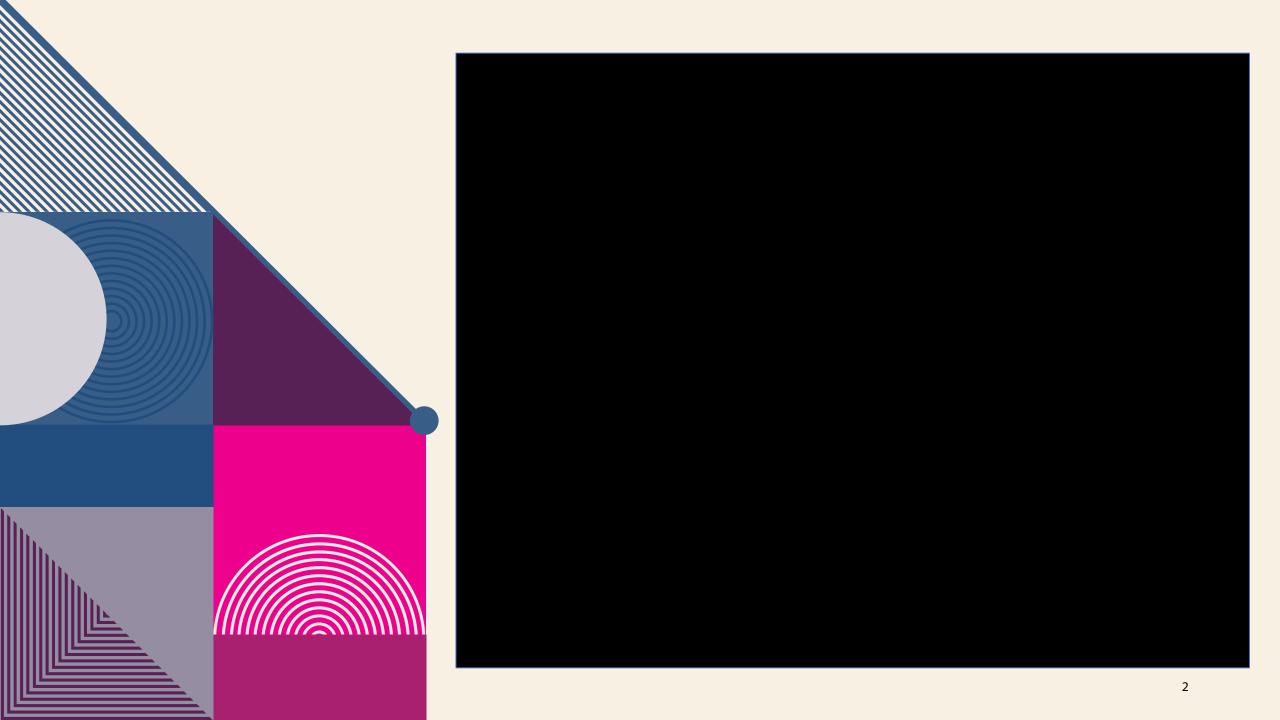
PAINIS INEVITABLE, MISERY IS OPTIONAL

Acts 16:16-34





PAIN IS INEVITABLE, MISERY IS OPTIONAL

INEVITABLE: NOT ABLE TO AVOID OR PREVENT.

MISERY: A STATE OF SUFFERING.

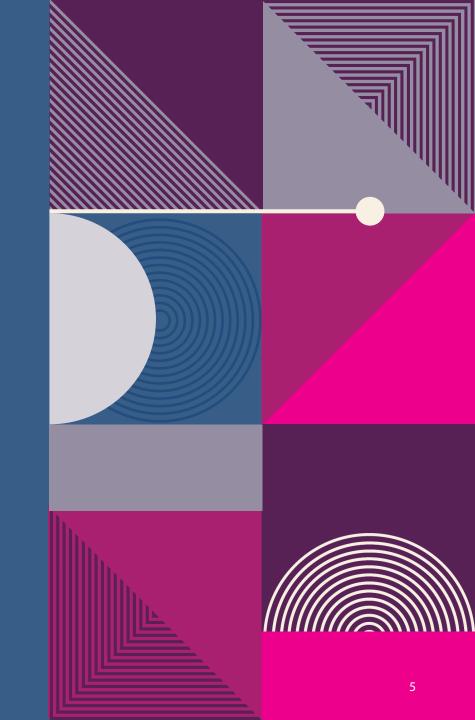


...THE CROWD JOINED IN THE ATTACK AGAINST PAUL AND SILAS, AND THE MAGISTRATES ORDERED THEM TO BE STRIPPED AND BEATEN WITH RODS. AFTER THEY HAD BEEN SEVERELY FLOGGED, THEY WERE THROWN INTO PRISON, AND THE JAILER WAS COMMANDED TO GUARD THEM CAREFULLY. WHEN HE RECEIVED THESE ORDERS, HE PUT THEM IN THE INNER CELL AND FASTENED THEIR FEET IN THE STOCKS.

ACT 16:16-24 NIV

YOU OVER-COME WITH PRAYER

An amazing amount of our prayers are aimed at problem reduction.





ABOUT MIDNIGHT PAUL AND SILAS WERE PRAYING AND SINGING HYMNS TO GOD, AND THE OTHER PRISONERS WERE LISTENING TO THEM.

ACT 16:25 NIV

MAYBE WE SHOULD STOP ASKING GOD TO GET US "OUT" OF DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES AND START ASKING HIM WHAT HE WANTS ME TO "GET" OUT OF THOSE DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES.



THE FUTURE LOOKS SO MISERABLE. BUT IF YOUR FACE IS TOWARD ME, SOMEHOW I THINK I CAN MAKE IT."





PRAYER IS LESS ABOUT CHANGING OUR CIRCUMSTANCES THAN IT IS CHANGING OUR PERSPECTIVE.

SAY IT WITH ME:

PAIN IS INEVITABLE,

MISERY IS OPTIONAL

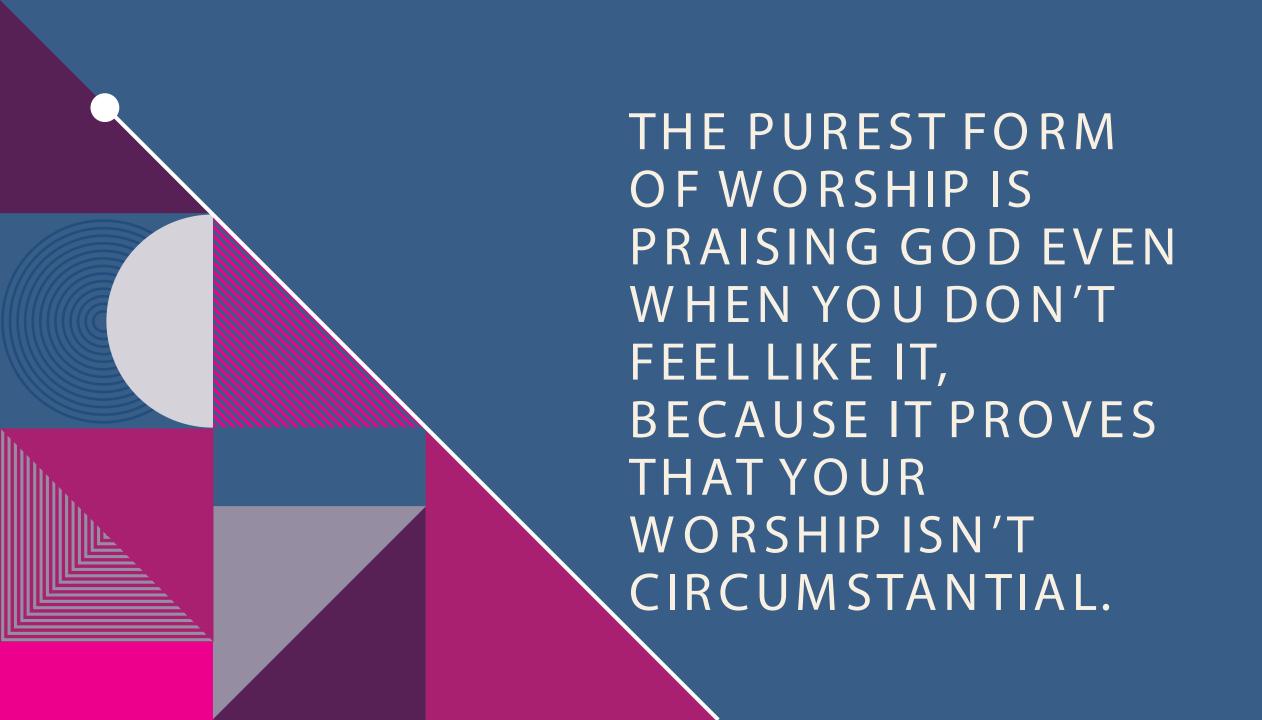
YOU OVER-COME WITH WORSHIP

SAY IT WITH ME:

PAIN IS INEVITABLE,

MISERY IS OPTIONAL

DON'T LET WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, KEEP YOU FROM WORSHIPPING WHAT'S RIGHT WITH GOD



PHILIPPIANS 4:8 NIV

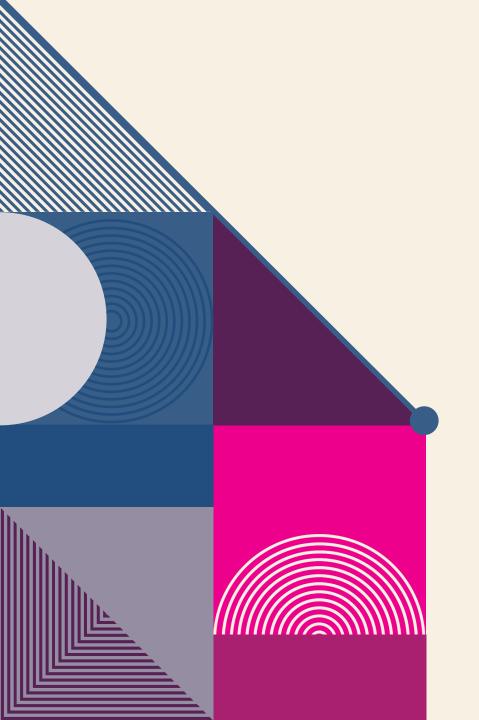
FINALLY, BROTHERS, WHATEVER IS TRUE, WHATEVER IS NOBLE, WHATEVER IS RIGHT, WHATEVER IS PURE, WHATEVER IS LOVELY, WHATEVER IS ADMIRABLE—IF ANYTHING IS EXCELLENT OR PRAISEWORTHY—
THINK ABOUT SUCH THINGS.



HOW WE FEEL ISN'T CIRCUMSTANTIAL, IT'S PERCEPTUAL.



THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD: COMPLAINERS AND WORSHIPPERS.



SUDDENLY THERE WAS SUCH A VIOLENT EARTHQUAKE THAT THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE PRISON WERE SHAKEN. AT ONCE ALL THE PRISON DOORS FLEW OPEN, AND EVERYONE'S CHAINS CAME LOOSE.

THE 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.

BUT PAUL SHOUTED, "DON'T HARM YOURSELF! WE ARE ALL HERE!"

THE JAILER CALLED FOR LIGHTS, RUSHED IN AND FELL TREMBLING BEFORE PAUL AND SILAS.

HE THEN BROUGHT THEM OUT AND ASKED, "SIRS, WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?" THEY REPLIED, "BELIEVE IN THE LORD JESUS, AND YOU WILL BE SAVED—YOU AND YOUR HOUSEHOLD."

THEN THEY SPOKE THE WORD OF THE LORD TO HIM AND TO ALL THE OTHERS IN HIS HOUSE. AT THAT HOUR OF THE NIGHT THE JAILER TOOK THEM AND WASHED THEIR WOUNDS; THEN IMMEDIATELY HE AND ALL HIS HOUSEHOLD WERE BAPTIZED.

THE 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 HOUSEHOLD.

WHEN IT WAS DAYLIGHT, THE MAGISTRATES SENT THEIR OFFICERS TO THE JAILER WITH THE ORDER: "RELEASE THOSE MEN." THE JAILER TOLD PAUL, "THE MAGISTRATES HAVE ORDERED THAT YOU AND SILAS BE RELEASED. NOW YOU CAN LEAVE. GO IN PEACE."

ACT 16:26-36 NIV

