

Acts Ch.16:16-40

“Praising through Pain”

***Everyone is watching how the Christian suffers**

1. V16-24 Engage the Spiritual Battle

- i. We wrestle NOT against flesh and blood (Eph. 6)
- ii. **“Test ALL things”** whether they are of God (1 Thess.
- iii. Are you actively engaged or passively retreating? Do you see your problems and conflicts as issues with people or part of the Spiritual battle? WAKE up O Sleeper, REMEMBER WE ARE AT WAR

2. V25-34 Endure the Consequences of Obedience Joyfully (God is Faithful)

- i. Count it ALL Joy WHEN you fall into trials (Romans 5:3-4, James 1:2, John 16:33)
- ii. When we have a **“heavenly perspective”** we know that Trials are both temporary and necessary (To strengthen our faith and **minister to others**)
- iii. How are you looking at your current circumstances? Is it hard to find joy and praise the Lord? How will God use your pain and suffering for the Kingdom of God

3. V35-40 Expose Wrongdoing

- i. Turning the “other cheek” and walking “two miles” was to expose evil not to invite abuse (Matt. 5-7)
- ii. ***We are to be “diplomats” for the Kingdom not doormats of shame to the world.***