

# “THE POWER OF A THANKFUL SPIRIT”

ACTS 16:9-40

SATILLA BAPTIST CHURCH

1452 Satilla Road, Wray, GA 31798

November 25<sup>th</sup> 2012 Sunday AM Service

Pastor William Pope

[www.satillachurch.com](http://www.satillachurch.com)

[pastor@satillachurch.com](mailto:pastor@satillachurch.com)

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

- a. If you are going through a difficult time, God has given us a very powerful weapon we can use to give us victory over our hardships.
- b. **God commands us to have a Thankful Spirit**
  - i. *In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. 1 Thess 5:18 (KJV)*
  - ii. *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. James 1:2-4 (KJV)*
- c. **Are we Gratefully Thankful or Grumpfully Hateful?**
- d. **Story from the Life of Paul that teaches us the power of a Thankful Spirit. How to find Victory in the midst of a bad situation.**

## **II. PAUL’S PURPOSE**

1. **The Macondian Call. (v. 9-10)**
  - a. the call was from God.
  - b. the call was to Macodonia.
2. **The Answer To The Call (v.10-13)**
  - a. immediate.
  - b. straight.
  - c. Went Out to reach the Lost
3. **The Confirmation of The Call (v.14-15)**
  - a. Signs

*Mark 16:20 (NIV) Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.*
  - b. Souls  
(Lydia)  
First Convert in Europe
4. **The Confrontation against the Call (v.16-19)**
  - a. source was Satan
  - b. hindered the message
  - c. captive soul was set free by the power of the name of Jesus Christ
  - d. Paul was in the will of God but yet he was experiencing great difficulty

## **III. PAULS’ PAIN (20-24)**

1. Humiliation (dragged, arrested, tore their clothes off, beat them, threw them into prison)
2. Pain (beaten with rods, individual rods tied together in a bundle)

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**3. Discomfort (inner prison; feet in stocks)**

**4. Darkness (the dread of darkness)**

**5. Have you ever been in such a position?**

**IV. PAULS' PRAISE (25-40)**

**a. But at midnight (does not depend on the quality of our situation, but on the quality of our Savior)**

**b. Praying**

i. *1Pet 5:7 (NIV) Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*

ii. *the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. Romans 8:26-27 (KJV)*

**c. Singing Hymns**

When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,  
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,  
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

*Refrain*

*Count your blessings, name them one by one,  
Count your blessings, see what God hath done!  
Count your blessings, name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.*

Are you ever burdened with a load of care?  
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?  
Count your many blessings, every doubt will fly,  
And you will keep singing as the days go by.

*Refrain*

So, amid the conflict whether great or small,  
Do not be disheartened, God is over all;  
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,  
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.

**d. Prisoners were listening (Paul could have despaired that he had no**

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**one to preach to)**

**e. Foundations of the prison was shaken**

**f. Chains were loosed**

**g. Souls were saved**

**V. PAUL’S PROMISE**

**ROMANS 8:31-39**