

PRISON BREAK

ACTS 16:16-34

FIVE STAGES OF
SPIRITUAL BREAKTHROUGH

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- 1) CALLING AND ANOINTING
- 2) INITIAL BREAKTHROUGH
- 3) PERSECUTION
- 4) GREATER BREAKTHROUGH
- 5) SALVATION

1) CALLING AND ANOINTING

ONCE WHEN WE WERE GOING TO THE PLACE OF PRAYER, WE WERE MET BY A FEMALE SLAVE WHO HAD A SPIRIT BY WHICH SHE PREDICTED THE FUTURE. SHE EARNED A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY FOR HER OWNERS BY FORTUNE-TELLING.

SHE FOLLOWED PAUL AND THE REST OF US, SHOUTING, “THESE MEN ARE SERVANTS OF THE MOST HIGH GOD, WHO ARE TELLING YOU THE WAY TO BE SAVED.”

2) INITIAL BREAKTHROUGH

SHE KEPT THIS UP FOR MANY DAYS.
FINALLY PAUL BECAME SO ANNOYED
THAT HE TURNED AROUND AND SAID TO
THE SPIRIT, “IN THE NAME OF JESUS
CHRIST I COMMAND YOU TO COME OUT
OF HER!” AT THAT MOMENT THE
SPIRIT LEFT HER.

3) PERSECUTION

WHEN HER OWNERS REALIZED THAT THEIR HOPE OF MAKING MONEY WAS GONE, THEY SEIZED PAUL AND SILAS AND DRAGGED THEM INTO THE MARKETPLACE TO FACE THE AUTHORITIES.

THEY BROUGHT THEM BEFORE THE
MAGISTRATES AND SAID, “THESE MEN
ARE JEWS, AND ARE THROWING OUR
CITY INTO AN UPROAR BY ADVOCATING
CUSTOMS UNLAWFUL FOR US ROMANS TO
ACCEPT OR PRACTICE.”

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.

4) GREATER BREAKTHROUGH

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 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?”

QUESTION

WHAT EFFECT DOES OUR WORSHIP
HAVE ON US AND OUR
ENVIRONMENT?

IS WORSHIP POWERFUL OR DOES IT
JUST CONVEY IDEALS?

5) SALVATION

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.

RESPONSE

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- 3) YOU WANT THE BREAKER
ANOINTING TO DESTROY
CHAINS AND PRISONS