

# Message Notes



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## WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO?

“SLOWMEMBER” SERIES: THANKFUL TO THE CORE! *“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

- Principles from the life of Paul
- God’s friend, Abraham and his son Isaac, while living in the gap
- Ruth and Naomi and when the script changes
- Today: What do you do in the meantime? What do you do when there is nothing you can do?

*“They tore their robes off them and beat them with rods... and they threw Paul and Silas into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks... and at midnight, Paul and Silas were singing hymns of praise to God and the prisoners were listening to them.”* (Acts 16:22-25)

## WE OFTEN SAY TO OURSELVES...

- God is absent! God is apathetic! God is angry!

## CONSEQUENTLY...

- We lose joy: “I’ll never be happy again.” We lose hope: “Nothing good can come from this.” We lose purpose: “There’s no point in continuing.”

## FEASTING ON THANKSGIVING WITH PAUL AND HIS TEAM IN ACTS 16

1. They offered genuine praise and thanksgiving in the midnight hour! They were not “faker thankers.”
2. They saw that the enemy had emptied his bag of tricks! *“... we are battling not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers and wicked spirits in high places...”* (Ephesians 6:12)
3. They had assurance that resurrection promises and power really work! *“... what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel...”* (Philippians 1:12)
4. They knew that suffering is absolutely necessary to Christian maturity. *“For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in Him but also suffer for His sake.”* (Philippians 1:29) *Although He was a Son, He learned obedience through what He suffered; and being made perfect He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.* (Hebrews 5:8-9)

## THE DIVINE IMPACT OF BEING THANKFUL TO THE CORE

God was so excited by this that He said, *“I just can’t hold still. I’m going to shake the place up a little bit!”*

Prayer: *“Father, when the pieces seem too shattered to gather off the floor and all that really matters is that I don’t feel You anymore. I need a reason to sing. I need to know that You’re still holding the whole world in Your hands. I need a reason to sing. When I’m overcome by fear and I hate everything I know, if this waiting lasts forever, I’m afraid I might let go. I need a reason to sing. If there be a victory, would You sing it over me now? Your peace is the melody; would You sing it over me now? I need a reason to sing. I need to know that You’re still holding the whole world in Your hands. That is a reason to sing.”* (Lyrics: *A Reason to Sing; All Sons and Daughters*)