

Prayer

A Conversation With God

Open Doors – The Power Of Prayer

Acts 16:16-34



Sermon Notes | Jeff Randleman | October 11, 2026

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened.

– Acts 16:25-26 (ESV)

God works through praying Christians and praying churches!

Prayer Has The Power To...

Increase our faith.

Bring freedom.

Produce good fruit.

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Matters for Reflection and Discussion:

1. Paul and Silas prayed and sang while they were in prison. What does their response teach us about prayer when our circumstances are difficult?
2. Why do you think prayer can increase our faith even when God does not immediately change our circumstances?
3. What "closed doors" or difficult circumstances can sometimes become opportunities for God to work in ways we never expected?
4. The prison doors opened, but Paul and Silas chose not to escape. What does this teach us about recognizing and responding to opportunities God gives us?
5. How can prayer bring freedom even before our circumstances change?
6. The jailer and his household were ultimately impacted by what happened in the prison. What does this teach us about the way God can use our trials to produce fruit in the lives of others?
7. Which is harder for you: praying for God to open a door, or trusting him when He doesn't? Why?
8. What is one situation in your life right now where you need to pray with greater faith and trust?
9. How might God want to use your current circumstances as an opportunity to influence someone else for Christ?
10. What would it look like this week to pray like Paul and Silas – not simply for God to change your circumstances, but for him to use you in the middle of them?