



LET'S GO DEEPER

SERMON NOTES The Blessing of Faith – Pastor Peter January 26th 2025

Acts 16: 22-26

“A mob quickly formed against Paul and Silas, and the city officials ordered them stripped and beaten with wooden rods. They were severely beaten, and then they were thrown into prison. The jailer was ordered to make sure they didn’t escape. So the jailer put them into the inner dungeon and clamped their feet in the stocks. Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off!”

WHAT IS FAITH?

Faith is absolute confidence and trust in God even though, at that moment, we may not have physical proof or evidence. And faith knows that God can use anyone.

Joshua 2:4,5 “Rahab had hidden the two men, but she replied, ‘Yes, the men were here earlier, but I didn’t know where they were from. They left the town at dusk, as the gates were about to close. I don’t know where they went. If you hurry, you can probably catch up with them.’”

God uses a prostitute who lies to forward the purpose of His Kingdom.

QUESTIONS:

1. Rahab was a Canaanite and a prostitute, yet God used her to protect His people. What does this teach us about God’s grace and redemption?

2. How can Rahab’s story encourage us to see others—and ourselves—as vessels for God’s purposes, no matter our background?



LET'S GO DEEPER

And Rahab shows up again in Jesus' family history. (Matthew 1:5-6)

Rahab also shows up in the great chapter on faith (Heb. 11)

PEACE THAT COMES BY FAITH

Acts 16:25

“Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening.”

Instead of being in despair, they have devotion. How can they respond like this? It's because they have a peace that comes from faith, and it gives them a different response.

So how can we have this peace? We control what we can control and what we can't control we leave with God.

Philippians 4:6

“Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done.”

Matthew 11:28

“Then Jesus said, ‘Come to Me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.’”

Your faith is relevant no matter what you face!

QUESTIONS:

3. In what areas of your life do you feel God calling you to trust Him more deeply, like Rahab Did?

4. Can you share a time when your faith gave you peace during a difficult situation.

5. Read Philippians 4:6-7. How does Paul describe the connection between prayer, faith, and peace?



LET'S GO DEEPER

THE POWER THAT COMES BY FAITH

Acts 16:26

“Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off!”

There's a power that comes from faith. And that power is supernatural because it comes from our omnipotent, all-powerful, supernatural God.

We live by believing, not by seeing. We walk by faith, not by sight.

Prayer Prompt:

Pray asking God to strengthen your faith and reveal His power in your life. Surrender any areas of fear or doubt and invite the Holy Spirit to work powerfully in and through you.

QUESTIONS 6.
Read Philippians 4:6-7. How does Paul describe the connection between prayer, faith, and peace?

7. Are there specific Bible verses, worship songs, or spiritual practices that remind you of the peace found in God? How can you incorporate these into your daily life?

8. Have you ever witnessed or experienced a moment where faith led to something powerful?



LET'S GO DEEPER



QUESTIONS

9. In Acts 1:8, Jesus says, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you." How does the Holy Spirit empower us to live out our faith?

10. In what areas of your life do you feel like you need to trust God's power more?
