

Exposé 247
Bucket Ministry Series 42
Title: Prison Break

So the last one was the Meat For Life. I hope you've listened to it and I hope you are walking through the revelation that was shared in that. And we are still open for questions, for comments or any clarification or what the Lord is saying to you about it.

And so the last time we hung up on Acts Chapter 16. We were talking about the experience of Paul and Silas with the jailer. I think it is verse 25 and it will be good for us to go back to that.

Now, viewers and listeners all over the world wherever you were. We've actually moved from the 34th verse of the 4th Chapter of the book of John. That has led us to Acts Chapter 16 verse 25. And that is where we stopped in our last transmission. So by the grace of God, we would continue from there.

Do you want to read that again please?

I am reading from the New Living Translation Version.

Okay. Please go ahead.

Acts 16

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

So the conclusion we came to in last transmission; so there can be connecting point for today's transmission is that, we saw something quite very unusual. When I say unusual, in the fact that Paul and Silas were incarcerated. They were bound physically speaking. Their condition as humans at that time was very deplorable, uncomfortable. This is the condition they were in.

And we shouldn't forget that they got into the situation not because they were stupid or because they stole something or because of bad character or bad attitude or because they disobeyed basic laws of the land by which they were supposed to be economical or something. They didn't defraud somebody as it were. They were here because of the testimony of Christ that they portrayed. They refused to compromise on the testimony of Jesus. We shouldn't forget that.

And that is good you mentioned that because today we see people incarcerated for fraud, as Christians and some will even erroneously labelled it as persecution. Putting the name of the Lord in disrepute or personal foolishness for not walking in wisdom and all these things, breaking the law of the land.

And Peter says let no one among you suffers as an evildoer.

So there can be two types of suffering.

That is why we have persecution for the sake of the gospel. So what Paul was experiencing....

We are not even saying if you actually got into your condition because of your foolishness or because of you not following the rules and regulations on ground. If that is what put you into your own trouble. We are not saying there is no hope. We are just making a distinction between that and the one that Paul is experiencing in this case. Because that is why the book of Isaiah talks about the fact that **"even those who are lawful captive would be set free."** It doesn't matter whether your captivity was unlawful or lawful, as long as you look to the Lord, there is deliverance in the name of Jesus.

Back to this 25th verse of Acts Chapter 16. Paul got here because of the testimony of Christ. But what we saw was, Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises to God. So what we said was strange in our last transmission is, here was a man whose condition, whose natural circumstance did not reflect his spiritual disposition because he was praising, giving praises to God. There was joy going on in this place.

And we highlighted one very important thing that the other prisoners heard them. And this is the thing about the gospel. That is the power of the gospel.

The power of the gospel says that the way you live your life, the way you react to the news on TV. The way you react to what is happening on Social Media, the way you react to the conditions of the environment; where you live. Your response as a believer in Christ Jesus, there is got to be something different about it that other people in your condition or other people who are subject to the same circumstance that you are in, should wonder and look at you and say "something is happening here"

There has to be a different spirit here. There is a different life this person has. There is a different capacity in this person soul that we don't have. If that doesn't happen, we are not yet a testimony.

You know people today almost think that the only way to draw people to the fold, the way to draw people into the kingdom of God is for you to claim that, oh yes! I've been able to buy a car within few months or within few days. Or I was able to break forth to the next level. This is the hand of God or I was able to acquire what I never knew I would acquire within the short time. This is the supernatural power of God.

Can that happen by the power of God?

Yes!

Can that take place by the grace of God?

Yes!

But what we are simply saying is, what attracts people to the kingdom as we see in the Word of God is when you as a believer react to life in a way they are not reacting to life. You respond to the stimulus, but not in the same way they are responding to the stimulus. It's the fact that you are in prison with them, you are joyful and singing praises to God, and they are wondering what is wrong with you? This is one of the ways to testify to the power of God in the way we respond to life. So that is what we see, that they began to listen.

So there is a wonder and amazement going on in the prison among the other prisoners. They are wondering what has Paul eating? What has Paul drank? Or has he actually sneaked on something? Those are the things we began to look at when we ended in our last transmission.

So by the grace of God we continue from there today.

And what do we see happening from verse 26 please?

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

Now see! This is amazing because if you notice what happened in the 26th verse. He was talking about a geographical event that took place in the 26th verse.

You see, one thing that we need to actually point out at this stage is that, the reason why Paul was singing praises... you know today when people are asked to sing praises to God. Some people say your praises to God is a means to your deliverance. When praises goes up, your blessings come down.

They say praises is a means to your deliverance. To twist his hand, to relieve him of his reluctance. If you want God to supernaturally come through for you, you have to sing praise. But don't forget the fact that the deliverance people are asking for is not actually the main deliverance. I will put that in context.

You know there is a deliverance we are looking for. There was something that Jesus offered the woman in John Chapter 4. The deliverance we are looking for, we wanted a sense of liberty, we wanted to know that we are not bound in life. We want to know that we are free to become the person that God has created to be. We wanted to know that we are able to become what we have been graced to be in life. That we are able to maximise the gifting of God. That we are able to display the fullness of God in our life; we are not being limited whether spiritually, physically, financially or socially. We don't want limitations in our life. People are asking for liberty and deliverance. That is what people are asking for.

But the fact is, in the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, what Jesus brings to humanity is to tell all humanity to simply say, "if you are in Christ, and Christ is in you, the liberty of the Son of God, the glorious liberty of the children of God is yours now." It is not your liberty; it is not your freedom. It is not your deliverance. It is Christ's deliverance.

The deliverance of Christ from death and hell... the Bible says he went into hell and he came out... It's not just his deliverance. It's your deliverance. You were dead in sins and trespasses, and when Christ rose up you were liberated in Christ to sit with him in the heavenly places. You are not bound anymore. That is the point.

He was disqualified so that you can be accepted.

Can you see that?

He was forsaken. He was rejected. He was bound. He was taken from judgement. And all that was done to him so that you can walk in his liberty. So if you come to a point where you know that Christ has set you free. He said "if the Son make you free, you are indeed free." You are free. You are no more bound by sin. You are not more a slave to men. You are no more a slave to the world system. You are free!

If you know you are free, it means the reason why Paul was praising God in the prison is that Paul knew that he was free. Paul knew that Christ had made him free. Paul knew that he was not bound to the system anymore. So his praises was because he knew he was delivered. He wasn't praising to be delivered. He praises because he knew he was celebrating his deliverance.

This is what we see. So when you tell people to praise God so they can be delivered. We are detracting from the finished work of Christ. We are simply saying that praises are needed to achieve the finished work of Christ.

No!

Because of the finished work of Christ, men are supposed to burst into praises. So the thing about this is to correct the order. He put everything in line.

So what Paul experienced in the 26th verse was just an external manifestation of the reality in which Paul was already living in by the praises. So this is what we need.

So I will simply say it doesn't follow New Covenant pattern to tell people that the reason why you have to praise God is so you can be delivered. If you read Colossians Chapter 1, verse 13. He said "having delivered us from the dominion of darkness and he has translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son"

Listen to me. If you are in Christ Jesus, you have been translated. You will not be translated. You are in God's kingdom now. You had been liberated. Your sins are forgiven. This is your best life now. There is no other life that matches up to the life that Christ has given you. That is the highest qualify of life you can ever have.

So when you know that, when you think about that, when you meditate on that, praises will burst forth. And when praises burst forth out of your spirit man, you'll begin to see demonstrations materially, externally, physically of the reality of what you believe in.

So what Paul got was an icing on the cake. It was just an external manifestation of what he was praising God for in which he knew he had in Christ.

So we must not get the order twisted. We don't praise God to be delivered. We praise God because we are delivered. And when you praise God because you are delivered, what simply happens is you begin to see the fruit, the results of what you already believed in. That is what we see happened there in this 26th verse.

Before we actually... there was a reason why we came here to the 26th verse. We are not actually there yet.

Go on please?

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

See! Every prisoner. This is amazing. Isn't it?

Because he didn't say the chains of Paul and Silas. Every prisoner!

Can you see that?

It is a generational deliverance. It is a deliverance that when you enter into, a liberty that if you walk in, it's going to bless your generation.

One of the reasons why you need to walk in your call, one of the reasons why you need to make sure that you lay hold upon the call of God upon your life and don't let

circumstances of people, of human opinion to dissuade you from pursuing God's call upon your life is because it is not just about you. It is about a generation.

You see Joseph was sent forth to preserve a generation. You have a generational call. God's vision is always generational. In fact, the scriptures says "the God of all generations." God doesn't just deal with an individual. He deals with generation as well.

We see that every one that was in prison, they all benefited of the deliverance. And that thing should tell you one thing; this is the goodness of God. I know people who don't like a God that works like this. I know people who don't like this kind of God, because we think God is a businessman. We think God says, "How much you invest in God is how much you get back" That is business. God is a God of all grace. That is what we call him.

It means he make the rain and the sun to come down upon the good and the evil. Can you see? There was a time that David in the battle of Ziklag, when some men told David and said 'some people who have not gone with them should not partake of the loot.' And you see, they were rebuked for such a mentality.

What do we here is, these people that God delivered from the chains in Acts 16: 26, they do not even partake of the praises.

Also they might be lawful captives. They might be murderers.

And also may I say this, most likely they were not believers. And most likely they were rightly captivated. And that was the same thing that happened on the cross.

You see Jesus changing the circumstances of people around him within his vicinity. You see the thief on the cross, the other thief was telling him, yes! We are in the right place at the right time. That we are suffering because of our sins. But this man, his circumstance, his destiny was changed; that other thief that key into it. He said today, you are going to join me in paradise.

So we see Jesus changing the circumstance of the people, walking in the fullness of the grace, in which we are calling every hearer into, to be able to change the circumstance of the people around us. Even when he was away, we see the burden...

We have their... were opened up and people begin to receive their saints on the street.

Now, that is what we call the goodness of God. When Jesus said in the gospel that if you being evil know how to give good gift unto your children, how much more your heavenly Father? God is saying don't compare my goodness to human goodness. The goodness of God will extend to people who don't even have any moral, spiritual or any personal qualification.

In this case, these men did not even praise with Paul. They didn't partake of the spiritual exercise that led to the natural deliverance. They were not part of it, but they got the benefit of that goodness and that is the grace upon the level believers.

See! As you are, where you are in your location, in your place of work, in your country, in your environment, among your family members, the grace of God upon your life will extent God's goodness unto others. And you have to come to a point to understand God's goodness; that God's goodness does not work on the merit of your sacrifice. It doesn't work on the merit of your participation. It doesn't work on the merit of how much you have put into it. God is good because he is good. So you have to understand that.

So we saw men walking in that benefit. And I hope our people will listen to this and understand well, that our God is not a transactional God. People will tell you God is moving in the neighbourhood now, key into it. If you sow into this, you will walk into this one, you will do this. You can tap into it. So they feel like he is a God that transact. You have to do this to tap, to key into it.

So those prisoners did not do anything to tap and key into it. They were just even listening. So you don't need to be in a garden where they said you have to sow get what the Lord is doing now. So this is a prophecy, what the Lord is doing now, somebody said he got a hung of that, so for you to get into it, you have to tap and key into it. Only some

few people that will get it here. Only some seven people that will get it here. And you must key into it now. All the prisoners delivered just because they were there.

So he is not a God that will be picking one or two. He is a God that is good unto all. That is scriptural, he says "good unto all." He is not going to be good to 5% or few people or people that has the means in that congregation. He is a God that is good unto all. To people that is outside.

I want us to really understand this, so we can free ourselves from the captivity and the chains of men. I really don't know, this kind of chains, the chain that put us in this kind, you just have to walk out of it by revelation. You have to walk out of the captivity.

Thank you for that.

Now, this is not an indictment on those who are having the mind-set that the quality of how much you pray, how much you sing praises, how much you actually go for Bible Study, how much you go to convention, anniversary, how much you do evangelism. A lot of people think that how much I do all these things as a Christian will determine whether God will qualify me for a blessing or whether God will continue to bless my life or whether I will continue to enjoy God's favour. If that is what you are thinking look at this kind of scripture; Acts 16: 26.

These people, were not even part of praises with Paul, but they got the benefit of the goodness of God.

I think this is one of the reasons, as we continue to verse 27, why Paul may not have been offended. I know some believers may be offended. I understand why my chains are off, but why is still that their chains are off, when they didn't praise? When there is no praise coming from them to God? When they don't put in any effort, what is the distinction?

Just like those servants of David complain about...

Now if you are complaining about things like that, or if you are wondering where you are worshiping, and you are looking at; this person just got born again some few days ago, why is it that we can see so many things she is testifying to God's goodness? Or I know that sister, I know she doesn't live the kind of life that matches up to the kind of life I am living. Why is it that she is enjoying so much?

So many things have happened by the grace of God in her life within a very short time, and you are wondering. It means you have a distorted view of God's goodness. That is what it means. That's what that kind of mentality is exposing.

Let's say this clear, God is good and he is good not because of you, he is good because of his Son Jesus Christ. It means Jesus took upon himself our condemnation, our disqualification and he transferred and imputed unto us, his own life, his own righteousness, his own qualification. So the answer of God to life. The response of God to men is because of the goodness of his Son. It's got nothing to do with your lifestyle. This is how you must understand the goodness of God that leads to repentance.

So here we see the goodness of God at work being showed even to men who have not come into Christ.

In fact, I've had testimony; I was listening to one of the testimony of somebody, I think specifically one of the Toronto Revival in Canada then. There was somebody who actually testified I think in the 90s. There was something he said. He said he was an unbeliever and he was just around the building where they could say "he was on going." I think he had a medical condition, I've forgotten exactly what that condition was.

But he was outside, he was not even in the service. But because of the public address system, instantly he was healed of the ailment and he ran in to the church, and said I don't believe in God, and I was not even praying for a deliverance but you see, that is what we see!

Even in our times, we see this happening; the goodness of God is mind-boggling. It's something that should make you exclaim and remark that what a good God that we serve. That is what we see in the Word of God.

I hope by the preaching of the Word of God today, it's going to bring comfort to people that are trouble by the goodness of God and they have not got it settled. Because really, they begin to investigate, postulate reasons and theorize reasons why this should be and fighting the goodness of God. So people already set themselves up to fight against the good workings of the Lord in the midst of his people feeling that, no! It should be done this better.

We should know that the goodness of the Lord is... I think you just relax in that he is good. We have to get our head rested in that knowledge that he is good. And he is good unto all. He is a God that he is good and rich unto all, not unto some. And so, we just have to give up on our effort, give up on our trying to get his goodness or try to feel like we can earn it. And so stop dissuading people.

And some the way some people don't even understand the goodness of God, they begin to ascribe this to themselves, even in testimony and feel like they did this. And people begin to understand why? When they experience that goodness; they attributed it to something else. They said somebody said this; I did this because of this.

People need clarify on this to get settle, to measure up to God's goodness. That to understand him and to accept him that way and not fight it. There is a part of us that want to fight it and feel like, no! it shouldn't be this. "Something must I have done" and people begin to investigate, what could it be?

You know what you just said now reminds of some people that always think about, if you have an abundance coming into your life; you have a special breakthrough that happen to you in an area, that is not common to men. And you see this is quite a very strange manifestation happening in your life positively. Some people always say you must have done something in the past, or your parent must have done something.

Those are miracle detectives.

It means you must have sown a good seed in the past and that is why you are enjoying the kind of favour you are enjoying now. Or maybe your fore fathers must have done something, they must have done good to somebody specially so God is now paying you back. We have this kind of twisted notion.

And the reason why we keep looking like you said "detectives" looking for what did you do? This thing can happen positively or negatively. For example, if somebody is going through a bad time, today is a bad news, another bad news. This same detectives can twist it the other way around and say.... for you to be experiencing the supposedly goodness of God. You must have done something wrong.

And again, it's not a new thing because right in the scriptures, the man that was born blind. They said there is got to be something that either him or his parent must have done for why he was born blind. So it works both ways, either we always look for sin to justify where there is calamity or we look for the fact that we must have done something good for us to benefit from the goodness of God. This is a manifestation of the spirit of religion. It is anti-gospel.

In the gospel, we simply see one thing that nobody deserves the goodness of God because why? We are dead in sins and trespasses. We are natural children of wrath. If we deserve anything, it is the rejection of God that we deserve because we are sinners. We don't deserve the goodness of God if you want to look at it that way.

But simply put, in Christ Jesus. If anybody is in Christ Jesus, he is a new creation. So in Christ we get everything that Jesus deserved because Jesus got everything we deserved. That was the transaction on the cross. That is what we see in the word of God.

It means every time you get the goodness of God or should I say every time there is an outward, every time you experience naturally, anytime you see a manifestation, all you should do is to give praise to God for he is good, not because you were good because he is good. That is why the Psalmist says, "Blessed the Lord for he is good, and his mercy endures forever"

Don't ever say, "Something happened to me, oh! I must have been good." That is not what we see in the gospel right there. So that is one thing again...

Let me put in the last word on that, because while you are talking about it, then I just have to know this thing that, that the only transaction since people really understand in transactions and understand in exchange, this barter; trade by barter. The only transaction you feel like oh! fine. There should be a transaction before I can get this. But anyway, there was a transaction and that is at the cross. So everything you need to do and everything, the transaction you are looking for to hang on has been done. So there was one on the cross.

And again, I feel like the knowledge of this will liberate us from against every strives, every competition. You see in the neighbourhood and the place of worships, you see competitions; people are gear up to compete against each other, to position themselves for the goodness of God.

We see so many pushing down, so many strives and everybody craftily trying to undermine other people's effort so that you can be on the front of the queue of God's blessings. It is so liberating to know that the goodness of the Lord is for all. He is rich unto all.

I want you to quickly read... the scriptures where the disciples heal the man, I think Peter and John. We just talk about it so we don't leave Acts 26.

You know people began to ascribe to them, they wanted to worship them because of the miracles that they actually perform. And what Peter said is, don't do this people! He said, "This has not been done as if it was our holiness, our own goodness." He said whatever you saw manifesting today was not because we had a personal qualification or personal righteous act that determines how far God use us.

Can you see?

People always say that if you are not very perfect, not very holy. How do you expect God to use you? The point is, if that is the condition, there would be nobody for God to use. Because if you are already perfect and you are already holy...

And Peter and John were able to say this to set the records straight for people who are thinking they will need to do more, to be able to perform more. And for people to feel like maybe it will not happen to people like them, and is happening to people like this because somebody is saying "I am praying 18hrs per day" "22hrs of vision and these things" that is why I can do this. And people are listening to those kind of things, and feel like since I don't have that kind of grace now, I will never be able to...These are the people that will be in the intermediary. So I have to go through kind of people who can perform this. So I have to go through the so-called Peter....

Some of those people tell you some special thing they do, some of those things, you feel overwhelm. And you feel oh! where do I begin from? Where can I measure up to this? As if those are the things that determine how God use them.

They use that to position themselves, flatter themselves up. And you begin to see and when you measure yourselves against them, you feel like am nobody; I don't have this kind of dedication. I can never come into this; I rather stay under their shadow. I rather eat from their table.

But Peter and John set the records straight and say, "whatsoever we see us doing, it's just nothing. And it is nothing about us and about it."

And then it is good that he mention holiness, apart from so many things. Because now the way people are putting holiness. He has called us to be holy, so we are not undermining the power of holiness and purity of life.

But Peter and John said no! we trashed it. That it is not because of our personal holiness that this happened. It is not because of our own piety that this happened. So we really need to know that, we cannot hang on to anything, no matter how good that nature is.

And again, I will like to say that this kind of word that we are sharing today is going to liberate people from the spirit of bitterness because it is a different thing. Some people get bitter because things are not happening the way they expected base on the criteria.

They met the holiness criteria and things are not happening to them after all the price I've paid. So people are in some years of bitterness. They are in angry mode all the time like the elder brother.

But there are still some other people who felt by their own criteria, they are the one that hold the list of criteria who should... the person is not as holy as they are, or is not even as perfect as they are...

From their own criteria, they feel like he's not deserving of God's goodness. And they see that just like the elder brother, they are in a perpetual angry mode.

Today we speak the joy of the Lord to flood your heart. It's liberty now. It is the time to walk free. Until we embrace the goodness of God that you will stop fighting this. That your heart will receive this and accepts it, and key into this. You will stop fighting the goodness of God and accepting that he is good unto all.

And at the same time, Christ has qualified me. Is that okay?

So everything that you have, every grace, every ability, every goodness, every favour, every life, every power that you demonstrate in your life is a consequence of the qualification of Christ. So before the Lord, you are blameless not because of you, not because you did nothing that can be blamed, but because Christ is blameless and he transferred that blamelessness to you.

So every time you come before the Father, the reason why there is no sense of guilt or condemnation is not because you dot all the t's or cross the i's is because you were declared righteous by Christ's death and resurrection. So that is the whole point.

And if you know if you want to check out the verses where Peter make that statement. It is Act Chapter 3 verses 12. It is not by own holiness or power that this is happening.

We need to know that. It is very liberating to know that because it saves you from a sense of guilt and condemnation. That is one thing, which means you don't ever come to say, the reason I cannot pray.....

Some of us if I ask you a question, like now do you believe that God can raise the dead? I am pretty sure if you are a believer and you believe what the Word of God says from what you've seen in the scriptures and from what you hear around, you know God can do the impossible. He can raise the dead because he had raised the dead and he will do it again.

If I say do you know God can do this? You say yes, he can do it. But if I say to you do you know God can do it through you now? That is how people back up and says can God raise the dead? If I bring the dead to you now, can God raise the dead? That is when you begin to reconsider.

The reason why you back track is because of the subtle spirit of guilt and condemnation. You believe God can do it, but you believe that you are not holy enough or you are not perfect enough to be the vessel that God will choose to use. This is a subtle spirit of guilt and condemnation.

That is why atimes, when we talk about condemnation most people think is far-fetched. You think, I don't think I am condemned. I don't feel condemned. I just give you a test to carry out on your soul to detect if you have that sense of condemnation or not. So this is what we see. So this kind of understanding today insulates you away from condemnation.

And the second thing is, it insulates you from the other side. It insulates you from pride. See! It is a double-edged sword. Having this revelation, it insulates you from both angles. You are save from condemnation, from disqualifying yourself. And it also saves you from the spirit of pride.

Because when men are coming to you and saying Oh! my God! The reason why things are happening in your life, in your ministry, in your calling must have been that you must have paid the price. When people want to worship you for that, as they wanted to do for Peter and John.

They must have said, "You must have paid the price. He must have fasted in a way that nobody has fasted or God has must come down in a vision to him that nobody has ever experienced" or you have a special grace in your life that is uncommon grace or God just release you for it, you are the set man for this season, that is why things are happening.

So when people begin to indirectly accrue all these things to you, having this understand will insulate you by you simply saying, "men it is not by our own holiness. It is not by our own godliness. It is not even by our own power that this man has been raised from death."

So this understanding today is an insulation against the spirit of condemnation and also the sprit of pride.

In fact, in the case of Peter specifically in Acts 3:12, it was to guard them against pride. So this thing is so critical.

And it frees the people to come and experience and key in to God's power because we see today, some people really talk about testimony of what the Lord is doing about themselves, they tie the people to them. "Well, you see the Lord is doing this, you know what to do with me and how to take me." So people's eyes are fixed on them and so tying people in chains to them.

But today, we thank God for the understanding that Peter and John had, in which they even helped themselves in the work. Because their work is a pilgrim work. Everybody is in work. To free themselves from pride, and to set people free to walk in that goodness of the Lord. I believe people are leaving that place, that time thinking yes! I can do that also. He had made us all the same.

Well, you make a very important point. It means he made the church, what the church should be. You know there is a vision for the church. There is a vision for the five-fold ministry. The book of Ephesians Chapter 4 tells us the vision. Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, teachers, he says "for the work of the ministry." He says for the edifying of the body of Christ and for the perfecting of the saint.

It means when we gather in church, the reasons we gathered essentially is not majorly for a miracle service. Miracle services are great. It is great that you see a demonstration of God's power. But I am talking about the manifestoes of the church. Ephesians 4 talks about the manifestoes of the church.

The reason why God gave those gifting in the church. God says "I have a purpose," the goal is I want the saints to be perfected. It means the saints come and they are being impacted, they are being grown, they are developing so they can then do. The next one says, for the work of the ministry.

So if you watch the order, again I encourage you to go and read Ephesians 4. He first said for the perfecting of the saints, then the work of the ministry. That is what you are saying. So saints that are perfected go out to do the work of the ministry. Can you see?

But when saints are not perfected, only one man continues to do the work of the ministry. That is the point. And that is the selfish mode. That is what we see in the world.

Today we see people who are being tying to their bowels. And you have to circle around them every year, circle around them every month for programs.

No! The man and the woman has not told them that it's not because they are special or any acts of righteousness or piety that has made them to be. So really they begin to position themselves stylishly or overtly telling them that there are some special works of arts that they have done, that their lifestyles, their revelations and some things they are doing. And so tying the people to those things.

So people are tying to them and they have to circle around them every month, every year from reading devotionals. Some people read their message more than the Bible. And whatever they say, they begin to quote them; they quote them more, and they circle around them.

You have to come month, you come this year. They have not been freed. Like Peter and John in the congregation to free them from themselves. So that they will not attach anything to themselves. Whenever they see a blind man, they will not be bringing it to Peter and John. I am not looking for Peter and John, I am looking for the address of where he is. So every blind, bring the blind to this place.

Peter and John is not saying that. So you saw us doing, is what you also can do. And that is what you also can do. Because it is not by our own holiness. It is by his own holiness.

And you also have the same access by grace. It's not by our own holiness. You have the same access. So there is no need for travelling around and say "we must go and meet him". "We must go and meet Peter and John" because you know there is nothing special why you should go and meet Peter and John.

And that is the message we need to free us today to understand how it was meant to be.

You know what? As you just said, I think I will like to cut some slacks for those people in John Chapter 6, looking for Jesus. At that time, don't forget when he was born, the angels declared Emmanuel; God with us. God came to be with man. God in the flesh. But you know at the death, and the resurrection of Jesus, we don't say Emmanuel anymore. I know some people still shout Emmanuel today.

Why are we shouting Emmanuel today? God has gone beyond being with us. Now Christ in us, the hope of glory. He's gone from with us, to in us.

Before he was with them, that is why you have to physically be with his side to get his benefits because he is with you, but now the scriptures say Christ in you, the hope of glory. So we don't say Emmanuel any more, we are talking about Christ in you.

And if Christ is in you, it means you have the same access by faith into the grace wherein your pastors' stand. You have the same access by faith. You have the same access! There is no higher access. There is no father and grandfather access. He says you have the same access by faith into the grace wherein we stand. That is what the epistle says.

So it means, you can do what anybody else can do in the name of Jesus because that person too is using the name of Jesus. He is not using his holiness. He may try to pretend he is, he is not using own power. He may try to pretend he is. The Bible says not by power or these things were done. Unless he is not using the power of God, if he is using the power of God...

You have to understand, no more Emmanuel! It is now Christ in us. Christ is in us, not with us anymore. In us is deeper than with us. That is what we see in the Word of God.

And then what the epistle made us to know that he's telling us to do not even as the general overseer, or pastor would do. The same power that was in Christ is the same power that is at work in us. The same one that raised him from the dead; that the full measure of godhead. The one that roll the stones away. Work in us, is not even territorial related to the one you have known or maybe your set man. We are talking about Christ in us. The power that defiles gravity. The power that broke the chains of death. And he said greater works we would do because he has gone.

Really, it's good to do more than what he has done and that is for us. We cannot allow any of these things to put us in hold, to block us from experiencing the power that is at work in us.

Now, what we are doing today is executing Ephesians 4: 12 like we said. It talks about the fact that we being having a teaching grace, impacting you today for the perfecting of the saints and he says for the work of the ministry. Can you see that?

So you can go ahead and do what you were born in Christ to do, what you were created in Jesus to do. You can go ahead and do it. Right from this place, you can go ahead. Lay

hands upon the sick they will recover. You can go out there and declare the Word of God in circumstance, in any situation, to people over your life, over your destiny. You can make your stand in the name of Jesus. And if the enemy comes to you and say, you don't qualify. You can tell the enemy yes, you are right.

Bible talks about the fact that it is better to settle with your adversary before you get to the court. Yes, you are right, I don't qualify but somebody else qualify. And I am here because of his qualification. How about that? Not by my own holiness. Not by my power. You have to take a stand in the spirit.

We are saying simply today, that you've got to come to that understanding, so that you can be insulated from condemnation and pride. So that you can do the work of the ministry. So you can be free and not look to.... It is good...

And I think we have to put the balance to it. It's important to honour men, to understand people that are labouring in the Word among you.

We are not saying don't honour them. We are simply saying, don't come to a kind of perception where you think that the reason why God is working might wonders through them, is because they are special. That is the spirit we are countering. It's never by any man's holiness or any man's power.

Oh! Before we move on from that Ephesians 4, we need to really clarify that; the manifestoes of the church. When he says for the work of the ministry. Now it's like we have all the work of ministry inside the congregation. We have so much of congestion and every work that is ever reported is just within the circle. Oh! God is just moving in our circle. Come and join this circle.

Congestion! Be it physical and the miracles within that confines... So no work is repeated. There is no work outside because you are meant to do the work outside even in your place of work.

So every of the work is being done inside. So every of the testimony, you have to come. No work is done outside. We have congestion and there is so much of pollution. People are breathing on each other. Everybody is manifesting inside. Just like a grace that can work in a circumference. When you come to this particular mountain or where our headquarter is. So there is no actual work the way the Lord wanted it to be, that it should be outside. When you are perfected...

You perfect the saints. You build them up to go and work...

We see all these people, all the key workers, we meet them in the place of work, we don't see any change on the street. We don't see them in any of those things. We can only feel their effect when they gather in the place and this is not how it should be.

Well, that will actually resonate with the John Chapter 4 that we've been looking at. The woman of Samaria; as soon as she encountered Christ, she went into the city. Can you see that?

So people that knew her, she left the presence of Jesus and the effect was seen because most of the effect you talk about now is oh! when you come around, what happened in our meeting yesterday was great. It's just had to be what happened in our meeting. But the woman went out, and the effect was found in the city, that village she went to. And that is where the work has to be. And that is where she was shouting come and see...

So today, there is so many shouting of prophecy, word of knowledge just confines in a place and it should be out.

Thank you Jesus for that.

So we are going back to Acts Chapter 16 because we've not actually gotten into the reason why we move into Acts Chapter 16.

27. The jailer woke up to see the prison doors wide open. He assumed the prisoners had escaped.

Watch that! He assumed...

The reason why this is important is, he made an assumption because of course, this is what everybody is looking for, freedom, liberty, breakthrough, prison break. This is what you want. Everybody wants prison break. Nobody want to be confined. Nobody want to be limited in life. We want a limitless life. We want to live a life that is not bounded financially, bounded circumstantially, bounded sociologically, psychologically. Nobody want to be limited. That is why people are working, doing everything just to make sure I want to be at the pinnacle of my life.

Prison break!

The man assumed. Why would he assumed?

Because he knows that is what everyone wanted. So even if he was him, he would have ran out.

That is why he assumed that this is what Paul and Silas will go for.

And it said the prison door was wide open.

We see the miracle of the Lord, not like a little that you just have to struggle. And then you have to work it out. The chains were broken and the doors were opened.

Even if you watch the Prison break you see how the ray of open, the little thing how they had to do so much, and work it out. But here we can see the master genius and everything; the greatest prison break!

You know what I need to say about this, this is actually supposed to be something that should instruct us in righteousness. I know some people out there...

We have the one that make the door wide open. It's not like you have to kill somebody to make this up. That is understanding. Because we can raise an analogy here because people are looking for breakthrough. They are looking for life without limits.

Yes! And people are going to do any ray of hope. People are going to kill to get their door open. People have to put people down to do this. Even in the physical, if people are doing prison break, people have to kill some guards and everything to just make a way out... but we see this door were wide open without the killing of anyone. And the chains again, it went to their chains one by one and remove... That is the workings of the Lord. When we allow the Lord to do what he alone can do.

And again, it's still the generosity of his goodness because the generosity of his goodness is not the one we are going to manage his workings. It's not the one that is going to come with 10% and you are going to do the 90% perspiration. I am just going to give you the 10%, just the ray of hope, so you can work it out.

His working is so generous. It's the generosity that will make that door, not just open. I will make it wide open. And I am not going to allow it to just walk with your chains to the door that is wide open. I am going to remove the chains. Because you can still walk with that, but I am going to remove the chains from you. And that is the God we are talking about. That is what we are calling you to; the goodness of the Lord.

This kind of facts in the Bible that happened. This is a new covenant expression, because of course Christ has risen, should also tell us... I know there are some kind of Christians who are coming up today in their response to those who have bastardize the gospel.

Some people have come to a point where they say "if you come to Jesus, miracle this, doors open for you, breakthrough" And some people says "you know what? When you are in Christ Jesus, the breakthrough that God's Word is talking about is the fact that you

are raised from death to life. They will say that is what is called breakthrough. And they try to spiritualize every...

And they say that God is no more in the business of supernatural providing money, you have to go out there and work out there as a believer. Or they can say, the days of shouting to God for your prison door to break open, God is no more in that business.

May I say this, this is a natural physical demonstration of prison doors open.

It is not a spiritual prison door here. This is a physical prison door in a particular location.

Some people will say that "how can you say the ground is moving and shaking because you pray? They said No! God...

They will not even say the reason why it's an earthquake it's because in the Old Testament, God responds naturally physically but now it's all in the spirit. So what you see as earthquake will now be your spirit man shaking. People theorize to just to show that God is... to discredit his goodness and feel like God is not in the business any more.

God will interfere in natural circumstance. God can turn natural circumstance around. It means he can go into financial institutions. Go into educational system. God can move upon the ground, the geology in the rocks, in the mountains, God's power can respond physically in the mountains. He can create a physical effect.

Can you see that?

God can move into organizations....

Let me say this, you cannot put God in a box. So it means we can see that God is able and he's still in the business of moving into the natural sphere of men, to cause an uproar, to distort if you please or to change the cause of things even in the natural.

The scriptures say "the heart of the king is in the hand of God, as river of water, he moves it to wherever he pleases" We can see God intervening.

He will intervene for the sake of his purpose for his children. So we cannot limit him to our theory. We cannot limit him with our own knowledge and we want to find a comfortable explanation and say we don't see this thing happening anymore, and so this must be this. We just have to... And we can only limit him in your own life. He is limitless.

In fact, some will say when it comes to politics. When it comes to economics of a nation. When it comes to this sector, that sector No! No!! God is not in that business. Just spiritually God is interested only in the salvation of men. You can't be in prison and be praying and asking... or you can't be in situation and asking for God to invade the politics of a nation. No! No!! God is no more... that is the Old Testament.

Well, don't say that. Don't limit God.

And again we cannot say that is what God is doing now only. And feel like that is only God, and so people using God is just only for him to intervene in those things. And they do not think about God intervening in the heart of men spiritually again. So really we cannot run off with any of those things. We cannot put God in any box. So people cannot put him in spiritual box, put him in physical box.

It's important to also mention that we didn't see where Apostle Paul prayed any prayer point for the ground to shake. He didn't say "Oh God! It is time for us to be liberated from prison. Let there be earthquake"

You know we didn't see him praying such prayers. And the reason why I did mention that is that, some of us we are not just keen on getting answers to our prayer, we always like to supervise how it's being answered. In fact, we think we have an idea of the best way that God should actually respond to the needs of our lives.

That is why I like the Apostle Paul in the Philippians where he says "whether I am alive or dead, that Christ be magnified in my body." Paul is simply saying, I don't care what circumstance it turns out to be, what I am targeting is that the name of the Lord Jesus Christ should be glorified. Whether he was in want or he had abundance, whether he was a free man walking the street of the land or he was incarcerated, Paul's goal is that the name of Jesus will be glorified.

And that should be your goal as well, that no matter the condition you found yourself, that Father, let your name always be glorified. Let me be a testimony to the goodness and power of your name wherever I go.

We must understand that when we stand on the side of always bringing glory to the name of Jesus, no matter where we are. No matter what we are experiencing. God in his own wisdom can decide the way he is going to show up in our situations. That is what we see there.

And even beyond Paul we have the patriarch who had this understanding, and it's such a shame that people in this generation who had seen Jesus risen does not even understand this. Even when Jesus was not yet given to men, we see people who had walked in this understanding. Some of them saying it is for the Lord to save whether little or many, to understand the magnanimity of his power and his grace.

And we still need to get back to that verse where it says "the prison door was wide open," to see his benevolence. To knock off every ideology that limits God. That limit the supernatural intervention of God in the lives of men, every kind of knowledge or theory or reactions or revulsion against the goodness of the Lord, against the abundance of the Lord.

When the door is slightly open.

Yes! but to see the God that will blast it wide open.

He didn't have to do just that. Isn't it?

Just a bit of a space is enough for them to walk through.

The God that door wide open.

Today, I don't know who need to listen to that, to know that the door will be wide open. He is not just going to give you a ray of hope. That God that is able to do that, and make the door wide open and even remove every of your own physical immobility. Your own personal chains.

You know some people's chain is not even about the government putting them in chains again. There are chain in their mind, there is very little movement they can make even with a wide door open. Opportunities abound but they can't really take hold of it or they can just move little and shuffle their way around.

But we are talking about a God that is going to make the door wide open and he is going to get your ... You are going to be free as heir. He said the man of the spirit, you cannot tell him where to go... it's just like heir...

And that is how the spirit of liberation in Christ is going to do. I don't know which aspect of your life, you are believing the Lord for. But I want you to understand the goodness of the Lord, the magnanimity of the Lord.

I think we are still going to come back to this Acts Chapter 16.

Oh! Yes, we've not finish with that yet.

I'll just leave like that because of time.

Because if we go back to that verse 28,

28. But Paul shouted to him. “Stop! Don’t kill yourself! We are all here!”

Because today, people are asking for breakthrough no matter what, even it's going to lead to the death of anybody, they don't care. We are going to be focusing on that. We are going to be carrying on from that verse.

Because people are desperate now. They don't mind anybody dying for them to get out. Because they know, it's so reluctant, the moment they see the door open.

No! the door doesn't need to be wide open, just a bit.

Or they are going to force the door open and blast and kill anyone just to get out. Because they know they are helpless.

So their prayer points says if there is anybody that needs to die for their doors to be opened, Father!

And if they had waited enough, and nobody is dying, they can even actually take up the gun and kill the person.

Well, what you are going to do is join us in our next transmission. By the grace of God, we are going to start from verse 28 because there are some things that the Holy Spirit by his grace will minister to us to make us to understand... what we are revealing through this verse and this scriptures is the mind of God. So that we can be built up. So that we can grow in grace. So that we can be perfected to understand fully nature of God as revealed in Christ Jesus.

If you understand the nature that is reveal in Christ Jesus, how can you walk with God? Can two walk together unless they agree? How can you have faith in the God that you don't understand his ways? How he sees you?

That is what we are focusing on, to be perfected, to grow so that we can demonstrate, we can be a testimony in our generation. So you want to join us in our next transmission as we begin to go deeper into this.

For want of time today, we are going to draw the curtain here. So if you want to listen more of this, you know where to go. Go to our Expose page, our YouTube page to listen to more of this.

So till we see you next time, we are on your tablet or whatever device you are using to get into this.

We say “as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him.”

God bless you.

Bye!!