

Perspective of Praise

Pastor Jeff Graham

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Sermon in a Sentence: Praise is the key that unlocks the promises of God in your life.

Summary: While under house arrest and facing an uncertain fate, Paul writes that we should always rejoice in the Lord. What makes this act of praise so powerful? Praise is the key that unlocks the promises of God in your life. It is an act of defiant faith in the face of adversity. When we praise, we shift our gaze from the mountain to the mountain-mover.

Ice Breaker Questions (Choose one or do them all, everyone answers):

- **What's the most embarrassing fashion trend you used to rock?**
- **What did you name your first car?**

Diving In:

- **What are some really silly things that irritate you for some reason?**

Read Philippians 4: 4-7

- **What do you know about Paul's situation when he wrote the book of Philippians?** He was under house arrest in Rome, facing an uncertain future. His goal was to get to Rome, but this probably wasn't what he had in mind.
- **How did Paul make the best of this situation?**

Read Philippians 1: 12-13

- Paul used his captivity as an opportunity to preach to a captive audience (his captors).

- **Can you think of a time in your life when God has turned something bad on the surface into something good?**

Read Romans 8:28

- **Paul also wrote this letter to the Romans, what does he say to encourage them?**

Read Acts 16: 16-34

- **Recap the story.**
 - **What is Paul doing when he comes across the demon possessed girl?**
 - **What happened after she was delivered?**
 - **What did Paul and Silas do while in prison?**
 - **What was the result of their praise?** Not freedom from prison, he stays behind. Instead it was salvation for the guards.
- **What gave Paul and Silas the strength to praise God in a jail cell?**

Pastor Jeff shared that praise is an act of defiant faith in the face of our circumstances. **How does praise help us shift our gaze from the mountain to the mountain mover?**

Going Deeper:

How can we pray for you?