

As we enter the season of Thanksgiving and Advent, many people are going to feel the constraints of our present circumstances, especially in comparison to past years. In this text, we'll focus on what we can learn from Paul and Silas in the tight space of confinement and look at how God wants to bring Hope and Breakthrough to us in the confinement we feel.

We want to encourage everyone to invite Holy Spirit's presence to meet you right where you are as you sit in this week's passage before Pastor John shares what he feels is God's heart for our church family this Sunday. As you engage with Holy Spirit in this passage, be asking this question - "Holy Spirit, what is one word or phrase from this passage that you want to impress on my heart for this week? Then, when you're ready, jump into the passage here below...

Reading Ahead of October 18 Service: Acts 16:16-34 (THE VOICE)

16 One day, as we were going to the place set aside for prayer, we encountered a slave girl. She made a lot of money for her owners as a fortune-teller, assisted by some sort of occult spirit. 17 She began following us.

Slave Girl (*shouting*): These men are slaves like me, but slaves of the Most High God! They will proclaim to you the way of liberation!

18 The next day as we passed by, she did the same thing—and again on the following days. One day Paul was really annoyed, so he turned and spoke to the spirit that was enslaving her.

Paul: I order you in the name of Jesus, God's Anointed: Come out of her! It came right out.

19 But when her owners realized she would be worthless now as a fortune-teller, they grabbed Paul and Silas, dragged them into the open market area, and presented them to the authorities.

- Jesus, I want to be able to rejoice in my suffering like You did. Like Paul and Silas were able to do. Will you bring forth fresh revelation through a filling of Your Spirit, showing me what joy in the midst of my confinement looks like?

****Paul's body was chained, but his spirit was free (see 2 Tim. 2:9).**

May the Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace!