

FOCUSING ON THANKFUL WORSHIP

Thanksgiving Sunday

November 24, 2013

Your **FOCUS** determines your reality.

We tend to see what we're **LOOKING** for.

HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH A VERY BAD DAY?

Acts 16:22-24 (NLT) "A mob quickly formed against Paul and Silas, and the city officials ordered them stripped and beaten with wooden rods.²³ They were severely beaten, and then they were thrown into prison. The jailer was ordered to make sure they didn't escape.²⁴ So he took no chances but put them into the inner dungeon and clamped their feet in the stocks."

HOW CAN YOU PUT MORE THANKSGIVING INTO YOUR WORSHIP?

1. Thankful worship zooms out to look at the **BIG PICTURE**.

Acts 16:25 (NLT) "Around midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening."

2. Thankful worship starts by focusing on what's **RIGHT** with God.

Acts 16:31 (NIV) "They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved--you and your household.'"

3. Thankful worship **REFRAMES** your circumstances.

Acts 16:33 (NIV) "At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized."

Your outlook on life will determine the outcome of your life.

4. Thankful worship stays **POSITIVE** in negative circumstances.

Research indicates that **80%** of all self-talk is negative.

Acts 16:34 (NIV) "The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God--he and his whole family."

Worship **CHANGES** and **CHARGES** the spiritual atmosphere.

Acts 1:4 (NIV) "On one occasion, while He was eating with them, He gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift My Father promised, which you have heard Me speak about.'"

"You can't plan Pentecost. But if you pray for ten days, Pentecost might just happen."

Worship sets the stage for **MIRACLES** to happen!

Philippians 4:8 (NIV) "Brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

5. Thankful worship is the way to **FREEDOM**.

Acts 16:35 (NIV) "When it was daylight, the magistrates sent their officers to the jailer with the order: 'Release those men.'"

Acts 16:40 (NIV) "After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia's house, where they met with the brothers and sisters and encouraged them. Then they left."

Psalms 103:2 (NIV) "Praise the Lord... and forget not all His benefits."