

# Beyond the Walls

## Jail House Rock

**Acts 13:2 (NIV)** “While (the leaders at church in Antioch) were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’”

**Acts 13:3-4 (NIV)** “So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. <sup>4</sup>The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus.”

### ***Paul (Saul) didn't have an easy life!***

*Paul was “driven” out of the city of Antioch in Pisidia.  
He “fled” out of Iconium when they tried to stone him.  
He was almost killed by stoning at Lystra.*

**Acts 16:12 (NIV)** “From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.”

**Acts 16:16-18 (NIV)** “Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup>This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, ‘These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.’ <sup>18</sup>She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, ‘In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!’ At that moment the spirit left her.”

**Acts 16:19-21 (NIV)** “When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. <sup>20</sup>They brought them before the magistrates and said, ‘These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar <sup>21</sup>by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.’”

**Acts 16:22-24 (NIV)** “The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. <sup>23</sup>After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. <sup>24</sup>Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.”

**Acts 16:25 (NIV)** “About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.”

**Acts 16:26 (NIV)** “Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody’s chains came loose.”

**Acts 16:27-28 (NIV)** “The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup>But Paul shouted, ‘Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!’”

**Acts 16:29-32 (NIV)** “The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup>He then brought them out and asked, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ <sup>31</sup>They replied, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.’ <sup>32</sup>Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house.”

**Acts 16:33-34 (NIV)** “At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. <sup>34</sup>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.”

**Acts 16:35 (NIV)** “When it was daylight, the magistrates sent their officers to the jailer with the order: ‘Release those men.’”

**Four reasons for Christians to have joy  
in even in the darkest circumstances:**

**II Corinthians 7:4<sub>b</sub> (NIV)** “. . . in all our troubles my joy knows no bounds.”

## 1st – We have a happy God living inside of us.

**Acts 13:52 (NIV)** “[Paul and Silas] were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.”

**I Thessalonians 1:6 (NIV)** “You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.”

**Matthew 25:23 (NIV)** “His master replied . . . ‘Come and share your master’s happiness!’”

**Psalms 16:11 (NIV)** “You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.”

**Romans 14:17 (NIV)** “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit . . .”

## 2nd – We have tons of spiritual reasons to be joyful.

**Psalms 126:3 (NIV)** “The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.”

**Luke 10:20<sub>b</sub> (NIV)** “. . . rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

**Luke 15:10 (NIV)** “. . . there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

## 3rd – Our joy is a testimony to unbelievers.

**Acts 16:25 (NIV)** “About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.”

**John 15:11 (NIV)** “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”

**John 17:13 (NIV)** “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.”

## 4th – Our worship is a constant reminder to trust God.

**Psalms 96:12<sub>b</sub> (NIV)** “The trees sing for joy.”

**Psalms 98:8<sub>b</sub> (NIV)** “The mountains sing for joy.”

**Isaiah 44:23<sub>a</sub> (NIV)** “The Heavens sing for joy.”

**Psalms 66:1-2 (NIV)** “Shout for joy to God, all the earth! <sup>2</sup>Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious.”