



Send us your comments & Prayer Request

the gateway ELIM CHURCH
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To the Gateway family

What is your default setting?

On mobile phones. Laptops, computers, tablet, iPads there is always a return to factory settings option!

I've been reading Thessalonians in my devotions and whilst reading I also had a wee read of Acts 16 and 17, basically because it tells a little of the back story of Paul and Silas on their missionary adventure and journey with the Lord Jesus Christ through life..... Isn't that what we are doing?

We've accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour of our lives, our life is completely His and we are on a journey everyday with Him to fulfil His will, here on earth as it is in heaven.

In Philippi, Paul and Silas end up getting whipped and thrown in jail! Doesn't sound like fun, I imagine it was rather painful and after a good whipping, there would have been no prisoner's rights to medical intervention, BANG into the jail you go.... Not a nice cleaned out, sanitised prison cell either, no antibiotics to help you fight the infection or bandages to help your wounds heal. (I place myself in their shoes and wonder how I might react or respond generally this leads on to confession.)

Paul and Silas' default setting was PRAYER AND PRAISE. It seems that their prayer and praise in the midst of a somewhat harrowing situation in the face of death and adversity creates an atmosphere for the miraculous. Now, WHAM, BANG, SHAKE, RATTLE AND BREAK..... There is an earthquake and the doors open, their chains are loosed.

I'm thinking..... Come on Paul, come on Silas RUN!

Nope, default setting in action? We go from Prayer and Praise to comfort and declaration, no thoughts of vengeance or freedom. Some wise person will point out that they were already 'truly free'.

During this lockdown period, it is as if God wants to take us back to HIS 'setting' for our lives. His 'setting' being that: - He created man in His image; He created man to reflect Him. He 'restored' that setting through Jesus Christ and now we can be full of His Glory, our earthen vessels full of a heavenly treasure, full of the Holy Spirit! (Keep praying Isaiah 11:1-3 and Ezekiel 43:5-13; 44:4,5,8; 47:1-12)

As I sat in my garden, I asked God, "What do you want me to write for Pastor's Pen?" .. you see if I write some intellectually smart, theologically sound words, that will have as much life giving power as a dodo! BUT, if I can write HIS words to you, this will produce fruit that remains.

(continued next side)

To the Gateway family (cont)

As I sat in the garden (on the decking, because Praise God in His wisdom I have been blessed with no grass to cut in this season of our lives), I could hear one of the neighbours shouting at her children. With the window open, you can hear every word! So often, I have heard shouting and thought "poor children", or shouting and thought "oh, shut up!" BUT today I felt encouraged to pray, to pray for the mum, to pray for the children, to release blessing over mum and children, to lift them up before God and cry out for them. An adventure in my garden!

Whilst 'lockdown restrictions' might put limitations on you physically, no person (unless you allow them!) can put limitations on you spiritually.

PRAY, PRAISE, REFLECT HIS GLORYbe filled with His Holy Spirit without measure and see the atmosphere around you transformed.

On earth as it is in Heaven.

Be blessed and be a blessing

Pastors Marty & Rebeca

Tune In to **DAILY DEVOTIONAL** with Pastor Marty on YouTube

LOVE LIVE SERVE

Thank you **ONLINE**

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