

The Benefits of Hearing and Obeying

Part 2

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- When God speaks, we listen and obey

John 10:27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

- **# 1:** God speaks primarily through the written Word – the Bible
- **# 2:** God speaks through the Holy Spirit – inner promptings
- **# 3:** God speaks through visions and dreams

Acts 16:18Finally 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 16:19-24 (NLT) Her masters' hopes of wealth were now shattered, so they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the authorities at the marketplace. 20 "The whole city is in an uproar because of these Jews!" they shouted to the city officials. 21 "They are teaching customs that are illegal for us Romans to practice." 22 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 the jailer put them into the inner dungeon and clamped their feet in the stocks.

- The Romans hated the Jews and the God the Jews worshipped
- **# 4:** God speaks to us **through circumstances; good and bad**
- God can speak through a failure, a success, a sickness, a healing, open and closed doors and even a supernatural MIRACLE
- Spiritually we need a filter to eliminate every voice **except God's voice**
- God's written word is the ULTIMATE filter to all the voices we hear
- God NEVER speaks contrary to His written Word

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

- When we listen and obey God, **God blesses us!**
- **#5:** God speaks through other people

Proverbs 27:17 (NLT) as iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.

Psalms 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Jeremiah 33:3 Ask me, and I will tell you remarkable secrets you do not know about things to come.

Acts 16: 26 (NLT) Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off!

- **Supernaturally** all doors flew open and all chains fell off
- God heard their prayers and **spoke to them by a supernatural miracle.**
- **# 6:** God speaks through an inner peace

Colossians 3:15 (NLT) and let **the peace** that comes from Christ **rule in your hearts.** For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

Acts 16:27-30 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. **28** But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!" **29** The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. **30** He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

- Why did the jailer ask – **what must I do** to be saved?
- Every person **MUST** admit that they are a sinner before they can be saved.

Acts 16:31-33 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." **32** Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. **33** At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized.

Acts 16:34-40 (NLT) He brought them into his house and set a meal before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced because they all believed in God. **35** The next morning the city officials sent the police to tell the jailer, "Let those men go!" **36** So the jailer told Paul, "The city officials have said you and Silas are free to leave. Go in peace." **37** But Paul replied, "They have publicly beaten us without a trial and put us in prison—and we are Roman citizens. So now they want us to leave secretly? Certainly not! Let them come themselves to release us!" **38** When the police reported this, the city officials were alarmed to learn that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens. **39** So they came to the jail and apologized to them. Then they brought them out and begged them to leave the city. **40** When Paul and Silas left the prison, they returned to the home of Lydia. There they met with the believers and encouraged them once more. Then they left town.

- What IF Paul had refused to obey God's WORD?

Psalms 119:105 **Your word** is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Proverbs 16:9 (NLT) We can make our plans, **but the LORD determines our steps.**

- **ONLY GOD** can direct our lives
- Text **YES** to 321.574.6970 if you have chosen to accept Jesus as you Lord and Savior

All Bible references are from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted. NLT = New Living Translation.