

## How to Respond to Frightening Times

Even when you are walking with Jesus, you will experience hard and difficult times.

<sup>25</sup> Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. <sup>26</sup> 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! <sup>27</sup> The jailer woke up to see the prison doors wide open. He assumed the prisoners had escaped, so he drew his sword to kill himself. <sup>28</sup> But Paul shouted to him, "Stop! Don't kill yourself! We are all here!" <sup>29</sup> The jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> Then he brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" **Acts 16:25-30 NLT**

If you have a relationship with Jesus, your response to difficult situations should stand in stark contrast to the rest of the world.

<sup>2</sup> Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. <sup>3</sup> For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. <sup>4</sup> So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing. **James 1:2-4 NLT**

### Choose to trust God more than your circumstances.

- God has already proven that you can trust him.

*Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!* **Psalms 34:8 NLT**

- He has proven that He's good.
- He has proven that He's in control.
- He has proven that He's all powerful.
- Trust allows you to live and move in spite of your fear.

### Ask God for help.

- God is not bothered by your asking.

- Don't stop asking until you receive an answer.

<sup>8</sup> But I tell you this—though he won't do it for friendship's sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence. <sup>9</sup> "And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened."

**Luke 11:8-10 NLT**

### Worship regardless of your situation.

<sup>17</sup> Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, <sup>18</sup> yet I will rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation! **Habakkuk 3:17-18 NLT**

- What you focus on is always your choice!

*And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.*

**Philippians 4:8 NLT**

### God's response was to show up.

- Regardless of what you see, you can be confident that God is still working.

### Next Steps:

- Trust Jesus.
- Live in such a way that others notice Jesus.