

Gospel Lighthouse Church
9/22/24

Radical Renewal of the Mind #10
Memory and Midnight

Text: Acts 16:22—26; I Cor.10:11

Introduction: The text is an account of the apostles Paul and Silas imprisonment in Philippi, their focus and God's faithfulness resulting in a miraculous manifestation of His power. The Corinthians text states things are written for an example and our admonition or instructions. "...and they were written for our admonition", (1 Cor. 10:11 NKJ). Admonition in Greek means advice offered in the interest of another's personal improvement (**Danker, Greek NT Lexicon (DAN)**). The account of imprisonment reveals you don't need a miracle first but a memory. It was memory that caused the prayers and **praise to God**. God produced the miracle at midnight but it was what was produced through memory that kept the apostles until midnight.

God's gift of the brain/mind makes this possible. According to an article in WebMD, June 2018:

- The brain/mind has a huge memory capacity. It has the same storage capacity as 4.7 billion books or 230 DVDs.
- The brain stores more information than the Library of Congress and processes it faster than a computer.
- The speed impulses travel from one of the 86 billion nerve cells to another 268 mph, faster than a racecar.

The account is a remarkable story of faith and resilience. Paul and Silas's actions are very inspiring and instructional.

1. Midnight- represents a very difficult and trying time, but a transition from day to another and liberation.
 - Exodus 11:4-9, 12:29-32.
2. Memory-remembering what God has done and who He is more powerful than circumstances.
 - Don't allow circumstances to steal your memory of who God is and what He has done.
 - Praying and singing (simultaneous action) were going on before midnight, before the miracle—Acts 16:25.
 - Your behavior in the midst of trials impacts others—*the prisoners were listening to them*.
3. Miracles—God's response for your deliverance and others around you—"the doors were open and everyone's chains were loosed"-Acts 16:26.

Note: At your darkness hour, your midnight, miracles can happen. The key; let your memory work for you approaching your midnight miracle.

JDF

Dr. Jerry D. Fryar, Senior Pastor