

# GETTING OUT OF JAIL

---

*“You do not have, because you do not ask God” (James 4:2).*

- I. **The letter Paul wrote to the Philippians is relevant to all people everywhere—especially those who are trying to navigate difficult times.**
  - A. Paul’s ministry to Philippi started when he cast an evil spirit from a fortune-teller who was making a lot of money for her owners (Acts 16:16-21).
  - B. Paul and Silas were thrown into jail, and God did a great miracle that blasted them out of jail and birthed the Philippian Church (Acts 16:22-40).
  
- II. **Later Paul wrote the Philippian Church from a jail in Rome. His exhortations for this church, and for others who read his letter, are very encouraging and beneficial for anyone trapped by various troubles.**
  - A. First, there is great power in rejoicing in the Lord always—especially when you are in trouble (Philippians 4:4).
  - B. The first line of the Lord’s Prayer is “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.” No matter what the circumstances may be, there is supernatural grace when worshiping individually and together in Jesus’ name (Acts 16:25-26).
  - C. Next, Paul says in Philippians 4:5 to “Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.”
    1. The Greek word translated “gentleness” means “gentle, mild, forbearing, fair, reasonable, moderate” (Strong’s Concordance).
    2. According to Matthew 6:12, in the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus says to ask for forgiveness for our failures as we remember to forgive others who have failed us. The following verse then says, “And lead us not into temptation [testing] but deliver us from the evil one” (Matthew 6:13). The key is: when we forgive others, the Father lets us off the hook also (Matthew 6:14-15).
  - D. In Philippians 4:6-7, Paul exhorts them not to be anxious about anything. The substitute for anxiety is to pray and petition with thanksgiving in every situation. The payoff is the peace of God that guards your heart and mind.
  - E. It’s possible not to let your mind be controlled by the spirit of the world. We can prayerfully consider “...whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable.” (Note Paul’s lifestyle.) The result is “...the God of peace will be with you” (Philippians 4:8-9).
  
- III. **In this letter Paul is essentially giving the Philippians a prescription for prayer and peace that both sustained him while he was in jail and also delivered him from jail. God will do the same for us, keeping us out of the trials and troubles of life.**

*Mike Hudgins  
February 6, 2022*