

ACTIVATE YOUR SUPERPOWER

I have the power to be a witness because I have Holy Ghost power!

KEY POINTS

- ❖ In our text, Paul and Silas cast a demon out of a slave girl, which cuts off the source of income for her masters. These men dragged Paul and Silas before the magistrates, who ordered them to be beaten and thrown into prison.
- ❖ To ensure that Paul and Silas were securely locked up, they were put in the deepest part of the prison and their feet were fastened into stocks (boards placed around a prisoner's ankles).
- ❖ Bound in stocks, a prisoner could be insulted, kicked, tickled, spat on, or subjected to other acts of torture. So, putting someone in stocks was not just for restraint, but also to humiliate and degrade them.
- ❖ Imagine the toll these events would have taken on Paul and Silas, both mentally and physically.
- ❖ And yet, in the middle of their physical and mental anguish, they prayed and sang praises to God – loud enough that the other prisoners could hear them!
- ❖ Where in the world did they get the energy to pray and sing so loudly? Simply, they "*activated their superpower.*" The word "activate" means "to make active or more active", or "to put on active duty".
- ❖ Acts 1:8 says, "But you shall receive *power* when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and *you shall be witnesses* to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (italics added).
- ❖ While it is true that the Holy Spirit gives us power to perform supernatural miracles (e.g., Mark 16:17-18), the Holy Spirit also *empowers us to be witnesses.*
- ❖ There is no way Paul and Silas should have had the strength to pray and sing praises – yet they did! The Holy Spirit gave them *power to be witnesses.*
- ❖ In Matthew 10:17-20, Jesus gives His disciples instructions before He sends them out to preach.
- ❖ He tells them that the 'Spirit of the Father' will speak through them at the necessary time. In other words, the Holy Spirit will *empower them to be witnesses.*
- ❖ John 15:26 says, "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me."
- ❖ Back to Acts 16:27-28. The jailer is ready to kill himself, thinking all the prisoners have escaped. Paul could have let him do it. The jailer may not have ordered the beating or imprisonment, but he did oversee them.
- ❖ Human nature wants to exact revenge on those responsible for our sufferings; to make them pay for our injustices. But instead, Paul cried out telling the jailer not to harm himself, as all the prisoners were accounted for. The jailer then asked Paul and Silas what he must do to be saved and they shared the

KEY SCRIPTURE: Acts 16:16-36

- scriptures with him and his entire household. As a result, the whole household was baptized.
- ❖ Note that they shared the scriptures **before** their wounds were washed and they were fed.
 - ❖ During possibly one of their darkest moments – both literally and figuratively – Paul and Silas allowed the Holy Spirit to operate within them and they were powerful witnesses.
 - ❖ The jailer and his household heard the gospel message and were baptized without ever attending a church service or function, because Paul and Silas "activated their superpower."
 - ❖ And who knows how many people believed in Jesus Christ because of the jailer's testimony?
 - ❖ When we receive the Holy Spirit, we receive God living inside of us. He is the one who enables us to be His witnesses, to tell people about His goodness, His grace, and His mercy.
 - ❖ We still have our free will, and we can choose to listen and obey the Holy Spirit's leading, or not to. He will never *force* us to do anything. But we should always be obedient to Him when He moves on us to do or say something.
 - ❖ 1 John 4:4 says: "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."
 - ❖ The way to keep your "superpower" activated is through daily prayer; meditation on God's word; singing songs; praising and worshiping God; and, yes, regular church attendance.
 - ❖ Philippians 4:13, which says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," is not just referring to overcoming the obstacles we face. It is also referring to our ability to be a witness.
 - ❖ *You can be a witness* because you can do all things through Christ who gives you strength!

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Review the following affirmations as often as you can this week, with supporting scriptures:
 - ◆ I have the power:
 - ◆ to share my testimony with those I meet.
 - ◆ to share the gospel with my family, my friends, my co-workers and my neighbours.
 - ◆ to share God's goodness with those around me.
 - ◆ to declare His righteousness among the people.
- I HAVE THE POWER TO BE A WITNESS BECAUSE I HAVE HOLY GHOST POWER!!

PRAYER TIME

Thank You, Lord, for filling me with Your Holy Spirit, giving me power to be a witness for You.

Start-up: if you could have an elite level physical ability without putting time and effort into developing it, what ability(ies) would you most want? Why?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 2021

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) ☁️ (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline