

## **“Praise Until Something Happens” (PUSH)**

Acts 16:20-34

January 6, 2019

In 1648 in Westminster, the parliament of England approved what was called the Westminster Confession. This new creed contained a large part of John Calvin’s theology and forever changed the way religion was conducted in England and America. The early colonies made immediate use of this confession of faith as they built their houses of worship in this new land. What was this confession? “The Chief duty of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever!”

### **I) Praise Overcomes Trials:**

A) Paul and Silas were beaten with rods, thrown into prison, and had their feet in stocks. Few trials are more severe.  
(22-24)

B) Singing and praying at midnight demonstrates an ability that belongs to every believer. (25)

C) “The shortest and surest way to happiness and perfection is to make it a rule to thank and praise God for everything.” William Law

### **II) Praise Sets Captives Free:**

A) This earthquake was no coincidence, in that, it happened at a precise time and had a liberating effect. (26)

B) In California a few years ago there was an earthquake where Northridge, Chatsworth, and Canoga Park were three towns located at its epicenter. These towns represented the porn capital of the world and nearly were destroyed. Afterwards, many of the actors refused to work and some started going to church.

### **III) Praise Draws Others To Christ: (27-33)**

A) “Why I believe is because as a kid I watched the trees bend and the limbs wave and decided that created wind. Later, I understood it differently. Discovering it was the wind I could not see.” Harry Fosdick

B) People of praise exemplify a model of behavior that commands attention.

### **IV) Praise Infects People With Joy:**

A) We always make disciples like ourselves. “He Rejoiced.” (34)

B) “The world rings with praise.” “The humblest, the most balanced, the most noble minds praise the most, while the cranks, misfits, and malcontents praise the least.”

C) “Just as men urge us to praise with them what they enjoy, praise does not merely express the enjoyment but completes it.” C. S. Lewis