

Good morning, I, Grantley have the joy of sharing with you this morning.

On the 10th of September, I shared a message on *Defiant Grace: The Radical Power of the Opposite Spirit*. We looked at how to respond when someone treats you negatively—how to fight back not by rolling over, but by operating in the opposite spirit. If you haven't listened to that devotion, I encourage you to check it out, as this morning's message builds directly on that foundation.

Today, we want to explore what happens when negative circumstances come our way. Whether we like it or not, life isn't always favourable. But how do we extract the maximum amount of good out of those rough patches ahead of us? This morning, my message is titled *The Radical Power of the Opposite Spirit: Navigating Rough Patches*

In Acts 16, we read about Paul and Silas. They were thrown into prison simply for casting an evil spirit out of a slave girl—whose angry owners, robbed of their fortune-telling income, dragged them before the city magistrates. The magistrates had them severely beaten with rods and thrown into the inner prison, with their feet fastened securely in stocks.

The natural response here would be to bemoan their fate. Instead, they chose the opposite spirit: they prayed and sang hymns to God (Verse 25).

The results were literally earth-shattering; we see it had

1. Impact on Others: The other prisoners were listening, no doubt wondering how these men could be so full of joy under such brutal conditions.
2. Salvation: Following the miraculous earthquake, the jailer and his entire family came to salvation.
3. Restoration: Paul and Silas's wounds were washed and cared for.

In 2 Chronicles 20, a massive army marches against King Jehoshaphat from Edom. What is the natural human response to that kind of news? Fear, panic, closing the gates, and desperately preparing for a siege.

Instead, we read: *"Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the Lord, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah."*

His alarm was normal, but his reaction was radical. He sought wisdom from God in public, acknowledging God's supreme sovereignty and finishing with this powerful posture: *"For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."*

Early the next morning, they left for the Desert of Tekoa. But notice the strategy: instead of putting the best fighters in the front line as custom dictated, Jehoshaphat put those with trumpets, cymbals, and a song at the head of the army. They used the weapon of praise in the face of what looked like certain suicide.

And Verse 22 tells us: *"As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men... and they were defeated."*

When circumstances spin out of control and we don't know which way to turn, Madelyn and I have learned that this is the exact best time to praise God—declaring that He is in control and that nothing catches Him by surprise.

Back in 2021, Madelyn and I decided to visit our youngest son in George, but our car was old, and we weren't sure it would make the trip. After thinking it through, we realized God had never let us down with our older vehicles. So, every time we felt worried, we chose to praise Him instead.

About two weeks before we were set to leave, friends living in Eswatini—who knew nothing at all about our situation—phoned us out of the blue. They asked us to meet them in Nelspruit, where they gifted us a brilliant second-hand Honda that we are still driving to this day!

What were we doing? We were wielding the weapon of praise, declaring God's control, overcoming fear, and releasing His provision into the physical realm. Over the years, every time Madelyn and I have hit a financial crisis—which, as missionaries, happens quite often—we get excited. We know we are right on the edge of seeing another miracle as God does the impossible.

What is your crisis today? What is the prevailing spirit behind it?

Identify the issue, look for its opposite, and choose to step into that:

- If the prevailing spirit is fear, act in faith.
- If it's hardship, spend time praising God.
- If it's greed, sow in generosity.
- If it's intolerance, choose to love.

May God give you great wisdom as you choose to fight your battles in the opposite spirit, and may you be pleasantly surprised as impossible doors swing wide open for you.

Let Us Pray:

*Father, thank You that You have not left us helpless, but have given us divine weapons to fight our battles. Help us to understand and wield these weapons of faith, hope, love, and praise. May we see Your Kingdom established and growing wherever You have planted us, that Your name may be glorified. Amen.*

Have a blessed day.