20261004 因祢得自由而歌唱/Sing Because You're Free – Ps Bijoy

使徒行傳 16:16 - 38

Acts tells how the early church spread through the Greco Roman world 2,000 years ago, and today we land on one of the most legendary stories in the Bible: Paul and Silas locked in a Philippian jail, the door shut tight, arms and legs in chains, and a song at midnight rising up to heaven. They were praying and praising God.

《使徒行傳》記載了兩千年前，早期教會如何在希臘羅馬世界中廣傳。今天，我們來到聖經中最膾炙人口的故事之一：保羅和西拉被關在腓立比的監牢裡，牢門緊緊關閉，手腳都被鎖鏈捆著。然而，在午夜時分，一首詩歌卻升到天上。他們正在禱告，並讚美神。

Here is why it matters. No matter how much freedom you claim in Christ, there will be a gap between the freedom you claim and the freedom you experience as long as your prayer life and praise life stay limited. You can quote Galatians 5:1, it is for freedom that Christ has set us free. You can say the old you is gone and the new you has come. But those truths are not tasted and lived out until you are willing to speak them and sing them. You can be free on paper and enslaved in actuality.

這就是為什麼這件事如此重要。無論你宣稱自己在基督裡擁有多大的自由，只要你的禱告生活和讚美生活仍然受到限制，你所宣稱的自由與你實際經歷的自由之間，就會存在一段差距。你可以引用《加拉太書》5:1:「基督釋放了我們，叫我們得以自由。」你可以說，舊事已過，都變成新的了。但是，除非你願意說出這些真理，並且唱出這些真理，否則這些真理仍然不會真正被你品嚐，也不會活在你的生命中。你可以在紙面上是自由的，但在實際生活中仍然作奴僕。

If you could see what happens every time you pray and every time you sing out loud to God, you would never stop. So, watch how this story begins. Acts 16:16 says “they were going to the place of prayer”- mark that. Many of the miracles in Acts happen while the apostles are on their way to pray. How many miracles do we leave in the theoretical part of our lives because we have

no regular rhythm of prayer? The supernormal act of going to meet with God leads to the supernatural stories where God meets you on your path.
如果你能看見每一次禱告、每一次向神大聲歌唱時所發生的事情，你就永遠不會停止禱告和讚美。所以，讓我們看看這個故事是如何開始的。《使徒行傳》16:16 說：「我們往那禱告的地方去」——請記住這一點。《使徒行傳》中許多神蹟，都是發生在使徒們前往禱告的路上。我們有多少神蹟，因為我們沒有建立規律的禱告生活，而一直停留在生命中「理論上可能發生」的階段？這個看似超乎尋常的行動—去與神相會，會帶領你進入超自然的故事，在那裡，神會在你所走的道路上與你相遇。

A slave girl with a spirit of divination, who made her owners a fortune, follows Paul shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." All true. But when demons speak truth, it is always with sinful ambition, to drown out the message and wreck any bridge with real people. After many days, annoyed, Paul commands the spirit out in the name of Jesus Christ so the gospel can be heard.
一個被巫鬼所附的使女跟隨保羅，她靠著行法術使她的主人們大得財利。她一路喊著說：「這些人是至高神的僕人，對你們傳說那得救的道。」她所說的都是真的。但是，當鬼魔說真理時，總是帶著罪惡的企圖，要淹沒真正的信息，並且破壞福音與人建立真實關係的一切橋樑。這樣過了多日，保羅心中厭煩，就奉耶穌基督的名吩咐那鬼從她身上出去，使福音的信息可以被人真正聽見。
Her owners lose their income, they drag Paul and Silas before the authorities and make the charge about ethnicity, and a mob forms. Paul and Silas are beaten within an inch of their lives, thrown into the inner cell. Then, about midnight, the darkest hour, they are praying and singing hymns while the other prisoners listen. Suddenly a violent earthquake. Every door flies open and every chain falls off. The jailer draws his sword to take his own life, but Paul shouts, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!", "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"
她的主人們失去了收入，就把保羅和西拉拉到官長面前，並且把控告的焦點轉向他們的族裔身分，於是眾人聚集起來，形成暴動。保羅和西拉被打得遍體鱗傷，幾乎奄奄一息，然後被丟進內監。到了半夜時份，最黑暗的時刻,他們仍然在禱告、唱詩讚美神，其他囚犯也在側耳而聽。忽然，發生了一場劇烈的地震。所有的監門都立刻打開了，眾囚犯的鎖鏈也全都鬆開

了。禁卒拔出刀來，正要自殺，但保羅大聲呼喊：「不要傷害自己！我們都在這裡！」禁卒戰戰兢兢地問：「二位先生，我當怎樣行才可以得救？」

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." That same night he washes their wounds, he and his household are baptized, and he is filled with joy. Now the church in Philippi includes Lydia the businesswoman, the freed slave girl, and a jailer's family. Only God turns oppression into salvation this fast.

「當信主耶穌，你和你一家都必得救。」就在那一夜，禁卒親自為他們洗去傷口；他和他全家的人都受了洗，並且心裡充滿了喜樂。如今，腓立比的教會包括了做生意的呂底亞、得釋放的使女，以及禁卒和他的家人。只有神能在如此短的時間裡，將逼迫轉變為救恩。

次序很重要/The Order Matters

For years I believed this story as a formula: praise is the pathway to your breakthrough, lift a praise and chains will break. Then I read it again and realized that is not the order of what happened. If you were beaten and thrown into prison, of course you would pray. You would have no one else to talk to. The surprising part is the singing. Singing expresses pain, joy and gratitude in the form of worship. And we sing after God moves, in response to what He has done. So why sing before?

多年來，我一直把這個故事理解成一個公式：讚美是你突破的途徑；發出讚美，鎖鏈就會斷開。但後來我再次讀這段經文，才發現事情發生的次序並不是這樣。如果你被毆打，又被扔進監牢，你當然會禱告。因為你根本沒有其他人可以傾訴。真正令人驚訝的，是他們竟然唱起詩歌來。歌唱，是以敬拜的形式表達痛苦、喜樂和感恩。而且，我們通常是在神動工之後才歌唱，以回應祂所成就的一切。那麼，為什麼要在神動工之前歌唱呢？

Because Paul and Silas did not pray and praise so that they would be set free. They prayed and praised because they were free. Many scholars believe the hymn was Psalm 113. Their joy in God was no longer dictated by how things went. The beating was unfair, the prison was unfair, the accusation was a lie driven by racism, and none of it could decide whether they could stir up joy for God. On the darkest night they could still sing that God is faithful. This is not about treating God like a genie who produces miracles when you sing the right thing.

因為保羅和西拉並不是為了要得著釋放，所以才禱告和讚美。他們禱告和讚美，是因為他們本來就是自由的。許多聖經學者認為，他們所唱的詩歌可能是《詩篇》第一百一十三篇。他們在神裡面的喜樂，不再取決於事情的發展如何。那次毆打是不公平的，監牢是不公平的，他們所受到的控告是謊言，而且背後是由種族歧視所驅使的；但這一切都不能決定他們是否能在神裡面興起喜樂。在最黑暗的夜晚，他們仍然可以歌唱，宣告神是信實的。這並不是把神當成一個神燈精靈，以為只要你唱對了、做對了某些事情，神就會按照你的要求行神蹟。

Prayer and praise are not pathways into freedom in Christ. Prayer and praise are declarations of freedom in Christ.
禱告和讚美不是進入基督裡自由的途徑。禱告和讚美，是宣告我們在基督裡已經得著自由。

They are declarations that activate the promises of God into tangible effect. Why pray and sing to a God who does not need it? He knows what we need before we ask, and a hundred million angels never stop singing of His holiness. Our praying and singing gives God nothing He lacks and does not change His promises. The miracle in that jail was a manifestation of what was already true inside Paul and Silas. They were so free on the inside that the freedom, by the Spirit of God, started spreading. That is how God still wants to spread His kingdom. Freedom spreads to your row, to the room, to a city. And a praying, praising church can walk in freedom and impact a generation.
禱告和讚美是宣告，使神的應許被啟動，並在我們的生命中產生實際的果效。為什麼要向一位不需要我們禱告和歌唱的神禱告、歌唱呢？祂在我們祈求以前，就已經知道我們所需要的；而且，千千萬萬的天使也從未停止歌唱，宣告祂的聖潔。我們的禱告和歌唱，並沒有帶給神任何祂所缺少的，也不會改變祂的應許。那監牢中的神蹟，其實是保羅和西拉裡面早已存在的真實狀況所彰顯出來的結果。他們裡面是如此自由，以致這份自由藉著神的聖靈開始擴散出去。這就是神如今仍然渴望祂的國度擴展的方式。自由可以從你所在的座位排擴散到你身旁的人，從一個房間擴散到整個城市。一間禱告、讚美的教會，可以活在自由中，並且影響一個世代。

But the enemy has a strategy: attach a burden to prayer and to praise. When we think of praying, we want to close our eyes and hang our heads. We think of how little we have prayed, we feel we let God down. That is not the voice of our Father. So every time you say, heavenly Father, shut down the lie and say, I am not praying to get free. I am praying from a position that is already free. I am already forgiven, already loved, already washed clean by the blood of Jesus. I am declaring the freedom that is already mine and activating the promises of God, not just in my life but in the lives of those around me. Praise gets the same treatment. Really, you are going to lift your hands again after the week you had? Yes, because we praise Him irrespective of our feelings.

但仇敵有一個策略：把重擔加在禱告和讚美上。當我們想到要禱告時，我們想閉上眼睛、低下頭。我們想到自己禱告得有多麼少，便覺得自己讓神失望了。但那不是我們天父的聲音。所以，每一次你說：「天上的父」，就要停止相信那個謊言，並且宣告：「我不是為了得著自由而禱告。我是站在已經得著自由的身分上禱告。我已經蒙赦免，已經蒙愛，已經藉著耶穌的寶血洗淨。我正在宣告那已經屬於我的自由，並且啟動神的應許，不只是讓它在我的生命中發生，也讓它在我周圍人的生命中發生。」讚美也常常受到同樣的對待。「真的嗎？經歷了這樣的一週，你還要再次舉起雙手嗎？」是的，因為無論我們的感受如何，我們仍然讚美祂。

And that is bigger than you think. Paul writes in Ephesians 3:10 to 12 that God's intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms. You did not come to watch a worship team, hear a message, and move on with your week. But we are called to sing so that Gods glory can be manifested through us to the world. I do not care that I cannot sing and I do not care what you think, because I know what He did. I have a reason to sing.

而這件事比你所想的更為重要。保羅在《以弗所書》3:10–12 告訴我們，神的旨意是要藉著教會，使天上執政的、掌權的，現在得知神百般的智慧。你來到這裡，不是為了觀看敬拜團、聽一篇信息，然後就繼續度過你接下來的一週。我們乃是蒙召要歌唱，使神的榮耀藉著我們向世界彰顯出來。我不在乎自己會不會唱歌，也不在乎你怎麼想，因為我知道祂為我成就了什麼。我有一個歌唱的理由。

自由是為了什麼/What Freedom Is For

First, freedom in Christ is for engaging God's mission, not escaping to our comfort. Think about how strange this is. Chains fall off, doors fly open, no prisoner escapes, and Paul does not walk out. His eyes were never on getting out of the most uncomfortable place. They were on how to take part in God's mission. He cast out the demon to free the girl and free the message, and while they sang, people were listening. That is why you must be willing to sing in the night, when you are in the most pain, because that is when God puts a megaphone to your life. A song in the night speaks to a lost world louder than all the open doors and prosperity Jesus may or may not give your life.

首先，在基督裡的自由，是為了參與神的使命，而不是逃到自己的舒適圈裡。 想想這是多麼奇妙：鎖鏈掉落了，監門大開了，沒有一個囚犯逃走，而保羅也沒有走出去。他的眼目從來不是放在如何離開那個最不舒服的地方，而是放在如何參與神的使命。他把鬼從那使女身上趕出去，是為了使那女孩得著自由，也使福音的信息得著自由；而當他們歌唱時，其他人正在聆聽。這就是為什麼你必須願意在黑夜中歌唱，在你最痛苦的時候仍然歌唱，因為正是在那個時候，神使你的生命成為一個擴音器。在黑夜中的一首歌，向一個失喪的世界所發出的聲音，比所有敞開的門，以及耶穌可能或不一定賜給你生命中的順利和豐盛，都更加響亮。

Look at the next morning. The magistrates decide to release them quietly, but Paul, a Roman citizen who should never have been beaten without a trial, refuses and demands a public release. It looks petty, but he is protecting the young church, which would have been shunned if its leaders were let go in secret. His motive from beginning to end was mission, not comfort, and his joy was never dictated by whether things got better or worse. It was dictated by how God could use him right where his feet were.

看看第二天早晨所發生的事。官長決定暗中釋放他們，但保羅是羅馬公民，按理說在沒有經過審判的情況下，他根本不應該被毆打。因此，他拒絕就這樣離開，並要求官長親自來公開釋放他們。表面上看，這似乎有些小題大作，但其實他是在保護那個初期教會；如果他們的領袖被偷偷釋放，這個教會很可能會受到排斥。從頭到尾，他的動機都是神的使命，而不是自己的舒適；他的喜樂也從來不是由環境變好或變壞來決定，而是由神如何在他當時所站立的地方使用他來決定。

So, check the pursuit of your prayer and praise. Deep prayer and loud worship with no focus on mission makes an unhealthy Christian. Mission with no private prayer and worship pours from an empty cup. Worship is the fuel of the mission flame. We do not celebrate broken chains and then ignore our neighbours on the way out. We carry the freedom in us, so it spreads.
所以，讓我們察驗一下自己禱告和讚美所追求的方向。深入的禱告和大聲的敬拜，若沒有以神的使命為焦點，就會使基督徒的生命失去健康；而沒有私下的禱告和敬拜，單單追求使命，就像從一個空杯子裡倒水一樣。敬拜是點燃使命之火的燃料。我們不會慶祝鎖鏈斷開了，然後走出去時就把鄰舍拋在一旁。我們要把自由帶在自己裡面，使這份自由可以繼續擴散出去。

Second, freedom in Christ is for pursuing Jesus, not pursuing open doors. God is not a vending machine that spits out a prize when you insert prayer and praise. Many of us pursue Jesus exactly that way, obsessed with the open door rather than the One who opens doors. Paul and Silas were not singing to be set free. They sang because they knew Jesus intimately, the way desperate people call out to the lover of their soul.
其次，在基督裡的自由，是為了追求耶穌，而不是追求敞開的門。 神不是一台販賣機，不是你投入禱告和讚美，就會吐出一份獎賞。許多人正是以這樣的方式追求耶穌，專注於那扇敞開的門，卻忽略了那位開門的主。保羅和西拉並不是為了得著釋放才歌唱；他們歌唱，是因為他們深深認識耶穌，就像那些走投無路的人，向自己靈魂所愛的那一位呼求。

The prize of prayer and praise is not the answer God might give, the job He might open, or the relationship that might be on your path. Those are good, but they are not the object of your pursuit. The prize is more of Jesus. Some of the best hours of my week are spent walking and talking out loud to Jesus, and I come away feeling I just hung out with a friend. Do you know Jesus like that? Do you sing to Him as someone worthy of all your affection? I do not want to invite you to Jesus just to get you to heaven one day. Knowing Him is the reason you have breath. John 17:3 says, "Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."
禱告和讚美的獎賞，不是神可能賜下的答案，不是祂可能為你開啟的工作機會，也不是那段可能出現在你人生道路上的關係。這些都是美好的，但它們並不是你所追求的目標。真正的

獎賞，是更多得著耶穌。我一週中最美好的時光，有一些就是一邊走路，一邊大聲與耶穌交談，而最後我會帶著一種感覺離開，好像剛剛才和一位朋友共度了一段美好的時光。你是否也這樣認識耶穌？你是否把祂當作那位配得你一切愛慕的主來向祂歌唱？我邀請你來到耶穌面前，不只是為了有一天讓你進入天堂。認識祂，就是你得以呼吸、得以活著的理由。《約翰福音》17:3 說：「認識你獨一的真神，並且認識你所差來的耶穌基督，這就是永生。」

A song in the night is not pretty. It is hard and tear filled, but it is not absent of joy. The question is not how to get the door open. The question is how to stay engaged with God when you are hurt, disappointed, and everything is unknown.
黑夜中的一首歌並不美麗。它是艱難的，是充滿眼淚的，但其中並不缺少喜樂。問題不是如何讓那扇門打開，而是：當你受傷、失望，而且一切都是未知的時候，你要如何仍然與神保持親密的關係？

Come to the cross, where this freedom was bought. It rests on what Jesus did, not on your behaviour. Sing, not to get anywhere with God, but in response to the finished work of the cross. If you do not yet know Jesus, call on His name and receive Him, as the jailer did. Do not do life alone. Even Paul had Silas. Find someone to pray with and get into community.
來到十字架前，就是來到這自由被買贖的地方。這自由的根基在於耶穌所成就的一切，而不是取決於你的行為。歌唱，不是為了從神那裡得著什麼，而是為了回應十字架已經成就的工作。如果你還不認識耶穌，就像那位禁卒一樣，呼求祂的名，接受祂。不要獨自過這一生。就連保羅也有西拉與他同行。找一個人與你一起禱告，並且委身於教會群體之中。

Free to pray, free to praise. Sing because you are free, not so that you will be. Freedom is for mission, not comfort. Pursue the One who opens doors, not the open door. A song in the night is the loudest witness to a watching world.
自由地禱告，自由地讚美。因為你已經自由，所以歌唱；不是為了將來得著自由才歌唱。自由是為了使命，不是為了舒適。追求那位開啟門的主，而不是追求那扇敞開的門。黑夜中的一首歌，是向正在觀看的世界所發出的最響亮的見證。