

## ESSAY FOR BIBLE SCHOOL.

By: Joseph

Acts 16:16-40.

My favorite Bible hero is Paul, He was a person with strong faith and would do anything for Christ. But Paul wasn't always a good person, he turned from persecuted Christians and hating Jesus, to a person loving Christ, preaching the gospel, getting even thrown in prison for his faith. The story I am writing about today is how God can use hard situations into something good and amazing.

Paul and his fellow brother in Christ Silas were walking to the house of prayer, and there was a slave girl possessed with an evil spirit, that brought her owners money by fortune telling, she followed them saying "these men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation!" Paul was very annoyed and tired of hearing all of it, so he cast the evil spirit out of her in the name of Jesus Christ. But when the masters found out that she would not bring them money anymore, they were furious, so they dragged Paul and Silas to the leaders of the city in the market place. Saying they were causing great trouble and disturbance in the city. So the leaders ripped up their clothes and commanded to beat them with rods. On top of that they threw them into prison. These men responded correctly, because they were singing, praising, and praying to God, instead of being grumpy, mad, and disappointed at God. While they were singing, an earthquake caused all the jail doors and locks to break. When the jailer saw the doors were opened he almost killed himself with a sword because if a jailer let the prisoners escape, then they would be publicly and harshly punished. Paul stopped him by saying "do not harm yourself, for we are all here". The jailer called for the lights, they were truly there. He fell in fear asking what he should do to be saved, and Paul simply answered "believe in Jesus Christ with all your household" and the jailer bandaged their wounds, and Paul was preaching to the jailer and his family. That same night the jailer and his whole household got baptized.

This Bible account is truly amazing, and Paul and Silas are great examples for me, they do anything for Christ, they did not even deny Jesus. There are also a lot of truths I can apply to my self, one of them is that I should never have a wrong response to my sufferings just like Paul and Silas did when they were beaten and thrown in prison, they could've got an infection or some kind of disease from their wounds but they praised God instead. God has used this lesson to me as a reminder if I am sick or am going through hardships it comforts me that we have the only one on our side which is Jesus, and the only one we can fully trust. God can also make something bad into good just like turning Paul to Christ in a great way. God can use hard moments in life for us, to something new and good and amazing like in the story, Paul and Silas got thrown in specific prison to evangelize to that jailer and his family and to build the church. But god sends us those hardships not because he forgot about use but because he wants us to go through a test to bring us closer to him, Jesus also never said that a Christian's life would be easy, or smooth, it would and is hard because we have the biggest temptation to sin, and god hates sin, and that is what we battle with every day. But we still have hope in Jesus Christ.