

THE RESISTANCE; FIGHTING BACK

RECOGNIZE THE REALITY OF WHAT WE ARE FACING

- From a ground level perspective
 1. This pandemic season has been like an enemy occupation
 2. Resulting in an anxiety and anger increase and a sense of hopelessness
- Also recognize the spiritual reality **(1 Peter 5:8-9 NKJV)**
 1. We have an adversary - Satan
 2. So we have to resist him - to stand against, to fight back

THE RESOLVE TO RESIST

- There is great value in resistance
 1. Gives us a plan of action - something we can do
 2. Is so much better than waiting for things to get better
 3. Spiritually powerful **(Philippians 1:27 NKJV)**

A RESISTANCE RESPONSE (Acts 16:19-26 NKJV)

- Paul and Silas totally bad experience (a no good very bad day)
 1. Falsely accused - this was about money, not Roman tradition
 2. Unjustly beaten - both were Roman citizens so their treatment was unlawful
 3. High level of uncertainty for the future - who was going to advocate for their release
 4. Physical / mental distress - severely beaten and in the darkest part of the prison
 5. Resistance response - prayed and sang hymns, how easy for them to become despondent
 6. God's response - earthquake and freedom
- Our resistance response; Rejoicing in hope **(Romans 12:12 NKJV)**
 1. With Paul and Silas the rejoicing came before the earthquake
 2. To be glad, expecting good because with God's help and His strength, we're coming through
- Our resistance response; Persevering through trouble
 1. We are not giving up on God, on people, on the future
 2. Not waiting for things to change but refusing to change our stance - what we believe
- Our resistance response; Continuing to pray
 1. Staying connected to God - talking, asking, seeking
 2. Staying connected by believing He hears and helps **(Psalm 34:4 NKJV)**