



# WAYMAKER.CHURCH

## Group Content

### Renewal: The Resilient Week 2

#### Beginning Prayer

Start your group by asking God and His spirit to move in your time together. Pray and ask God for His Spirit to uncover the things in your life that might be taking authority over Jesus' authority.

#### **This Week's Topic: The Resilient Church**

This week we continued our discussion on Renewal. How does God want to renew the Church, His body, in this time? In our current culture, we can see an issue of individualism within the walls of the church. Rather than being a place of people protecting their personal freedoms and authority, the church must lead the way in loving and serving others under the reign and authority of Jesus.

*Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off! The jailer woke up to see the prison doors wide open. He assumed the prisoners had escaped, so he drew his sword to kill himself. But Paul shouted to him, "Stop! Don't kill yourself! We are all here!"*

*The jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"*

*They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household." And they shared the word of the Lord with him and with all who lived in his household. Even at that hour of the night, the jailer cared for them and washed their wounds. Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized. He brought them into his house and set a meal before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced because they all believed in God.*

*Acts 16:25-34*

*Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me.*

*Luke 9:23*

*This letter is from Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, chosen by God to be an apostle and sent out to preach his Good News.*

*Romans 1:1*

*"In our own time, we need to ask ourselves under whose authority we are living. Who holds the formative power in our lives? If we really believe that Jesus is Lord of heaven and earth, in a culture like ours that Lordship will be tested."*

*Jon Tyson*

God made every one of us unique and knows us personally. He created us as separate individuals with separate interests and giftings. When we talk about individualism within the Church, we're not talking about a diverse body. We're talking about self-reliance and self-



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authority. Many Churches are infected with the *worship of individualism* and have dethroned Jesus for their personal preferences, truth, comforts, and freedoms. It's easy to think that in life, the more freedoms we have the better the quality of life. But God calls us to live under His reign and authority. This is the paradox: When we live under Jesus' reign, we are *freed*. Freed from sin and death. Therefore, we can trust Him with our lives, death, and eternities no matter what we face. Look closely at Paul's life in this passage – living separately from the World and preaching a message different than the World's is considered a threat to the World. But every time Paul denied himself (his desires and comforts), Jesus moved and the Kingdom of God spread more and more within the World.

### Discussion Questions

1. **How is the worship of individualism ineffective for the Kingdom and mission of God?**
2. **How is the worship of individualism incompatible for the Kingdom and mission of God?**
3. **If you were in Paul and Silas' position, do you think you would have escaped after the Earthquake? What does them staying to witness to the jailer demonstrate about their faith?**
4. **What is something in your life that makes it hard to trust God with your life, death, and eternity?**
5. **There has always been persecution, specifically physically persecution, towards the Church outside of America. What do you think persecution for the Western American Church looks like?**
6. **Read the quote by Jon Tyson. What are ways in which "Lordship is tested?"**
7. **How does being unified within a community of believers help you live the gospel to the fullest?**
8. **Read Luke 9:23. What do you think it means to "take up your cross" daily?**
9. **Read Romans 1:1. Paul refers to Himself as a "slave of Christ." Paul repeatedly introduces himself this way in his letters (slave, prisoner, bondservant). What does Paul mean by this?**

### Weekly Practical Steps

Evaluate yourself this week. Your attitude often reflects where your heart is at. If you feel like pulling away from loving others, ask the Holy Spirit to help you carry grace. If you feel like you're in conflict with the body of Christ, ask the Holy Spirit to help teach you the practice of submission within community. If you feel like you're being tested, ask the Holy Spirit to show you opportunities to carry God's message.

### Ending Prayer

We believe that prayer ignites movement, and that community should be surrounded in prayer.

Pray for the Spirit of God to be with you as you wrestle and contend for your community. Ask God to protect and guide you through spiritual warfare. Ask for His Spirit to illuminate truth to you and direct you to what's next.