

A DETESTIBLE PRACTICE

ACTS 16:16-24

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: In each of Paul's three missionary journeys, he encountered people who were controlled by demons.

IS FORTUNE TELLING. If fortune telling was truth from God, there would no longer be a need for faith in Christ. Our life and future rests on Jesus Christ and not on Satan's false credentials. For us it is "Christ in you." For those controlled by Satan it is "evil spirits in you." (Acts 16:16, 17, fn 16:16, Deuteronomy 18:9-14, fn 18:10-13, John 14:15-21, fn 14:19-21, Ephesians 6:10-17, fn 6:10-17) *How could you help your family guard against being captivated by demonic activities?*

WAS OVERCOME. By the authority of Jesus Christ and with his eyes wide open, Paul commanded the evil spirit to leave the girl and it did! Paul did not pray here. He simply used the power and authority he had in Jesus. God's children, filled with His Spirit, not those influenced by the power of Satan, are His witnesses. (Acts 16:17, 18, fn 16:17, 18, Mark 1:21-38, fn 1:23, fn 1:23ff, fn 1:34, I Timothy 4:1-5, fn 4:1-5, Acts 1:8, II Corinthians 5:18-20, fn 5:18, 19) *What would you do if you were in a situation like Paul?*

WAS ACCEPTABLE TO THE CROWD. The crowd (the world) accepts lucrative evil practices and prejudices that reveal the influences of Satan. (Acts 16:19-24, fn 16:24, I John 2:15-17, fn 2:17, I Peter 5:6-10, fn 5:8, 9, fn 5:10, Romans 8:35-39, fn 8:35-39) *Why do you think the Christian life seems so hard at times?*

The Bible was not written for our information only but for our transformation. *How will these verses change you in your walk with God and others, including your spouse? (Matthew 5:23, 24, I Peter 3:7)*

Pray for one another's needs.

