

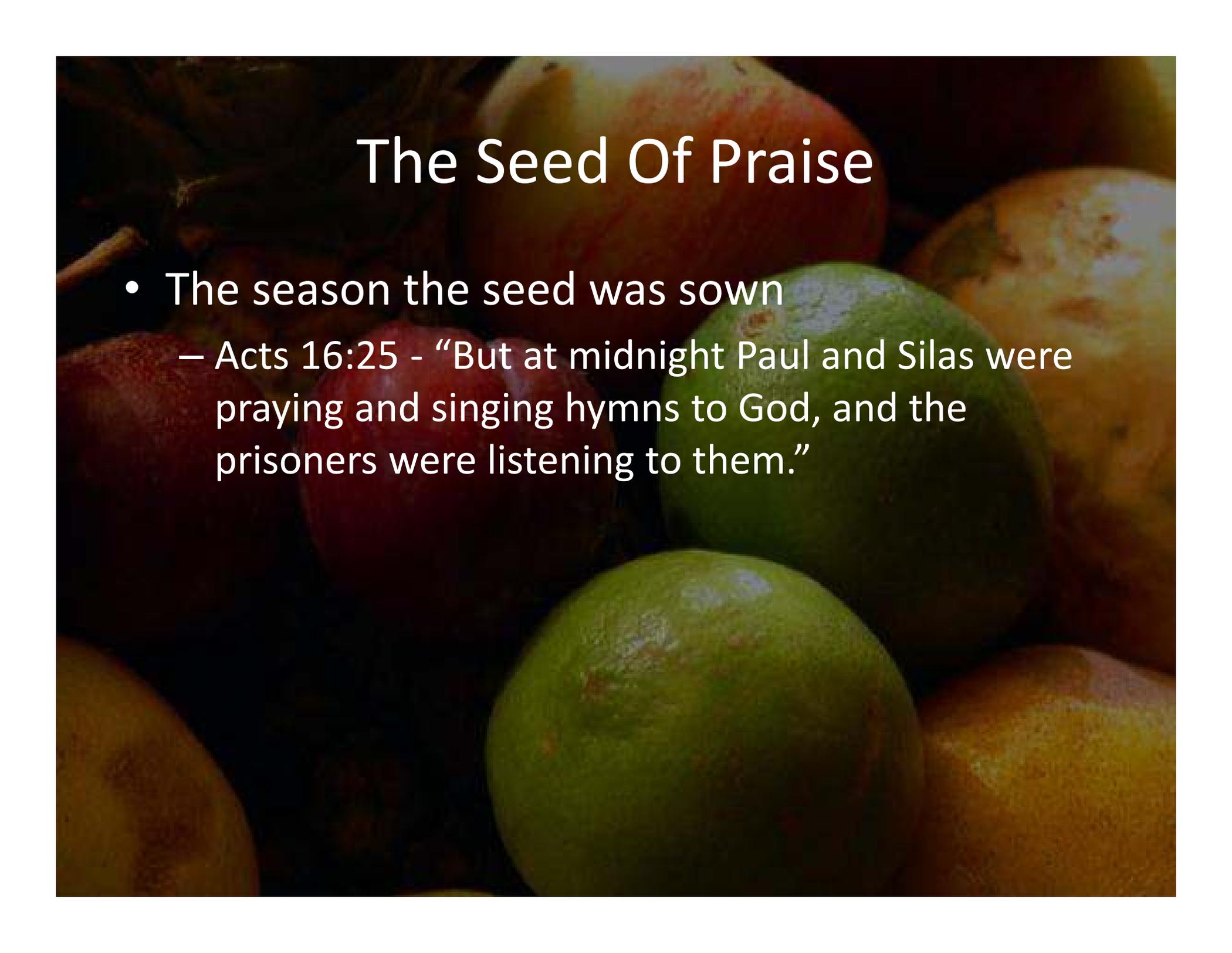


# Praise: From Seed to Fruit

Acts 16:22-39

# The Seed Of Praise

- The soil in which the seed of praise is sown
  - Acts 16:22-24 - “Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. 23 And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. 24 Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.”
- The test of true praise



# The Seed Of Praise

- The season the seed was sown
  - Acts 16:25 - “But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.”

# The Seed Of Praise

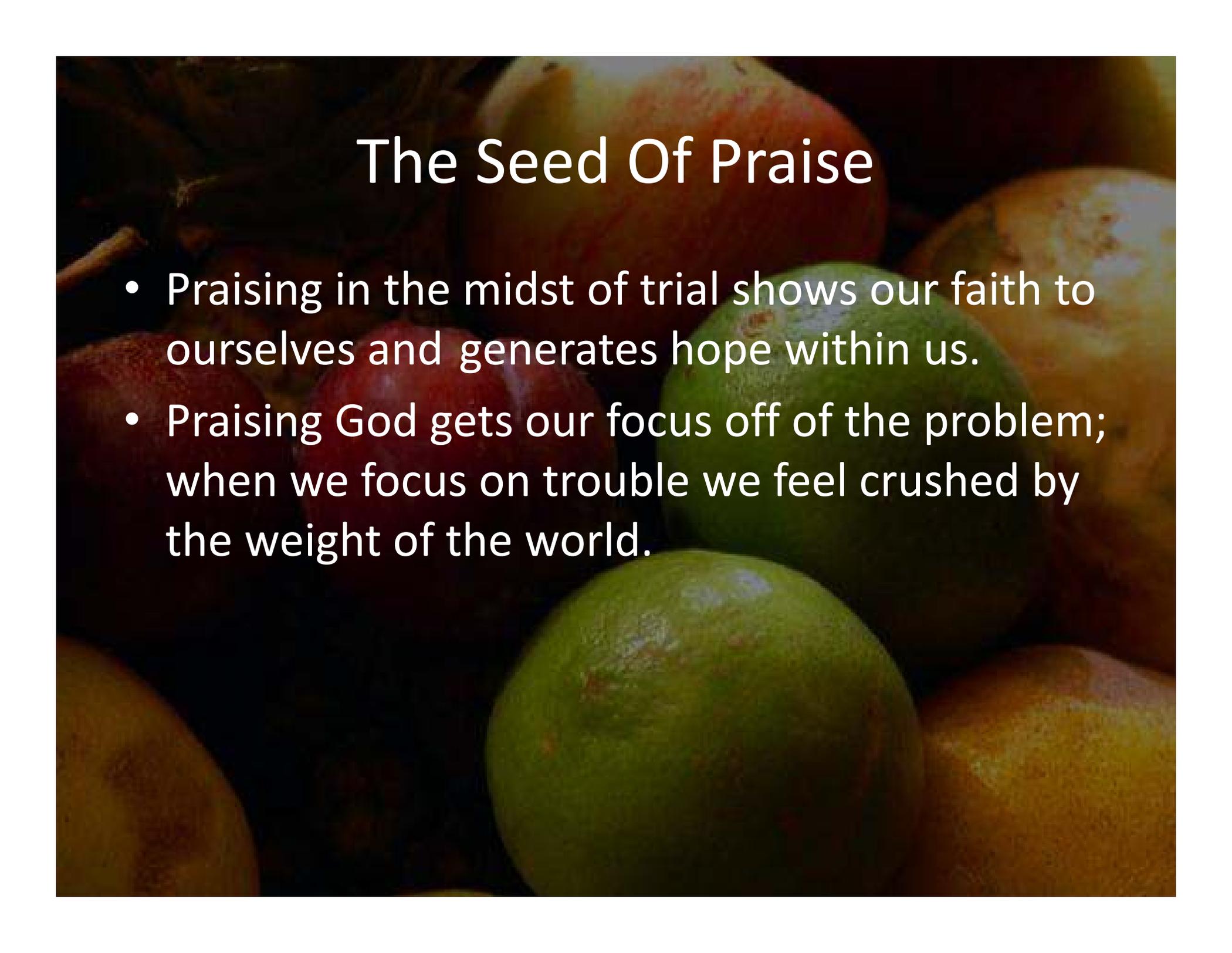
- True praise is sown at all times in our relationship with Christ
  - Psalm 16:8-11 - “I have set the LORD always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved. 9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope. 10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. 11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

# The Seed Of Praise

- The seed sprouts and grows
  - Acts 16:26-29 - “Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. 27 And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. 28 But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, Do yourself no harm, for we are all here. 29 Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.”

# The Seed Of Praise

- True praise proves one is living above and in spite of his circumstances
  - Isa. 61:1-3 - “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, 3 To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.”



# The Seed Of Praise

- Praising in the midst of trial shows our faith to ourselves and generates hope within us.
- Praising God gets our focus off of the problem; when we focus on trouble we feel crushed by the weight of the world.

# The Seed Of Praise

- True praise prevents bitterness and vengeance afterward
  - Acts 5:40-42 - “And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. 42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.”

# The Seed Of Praise

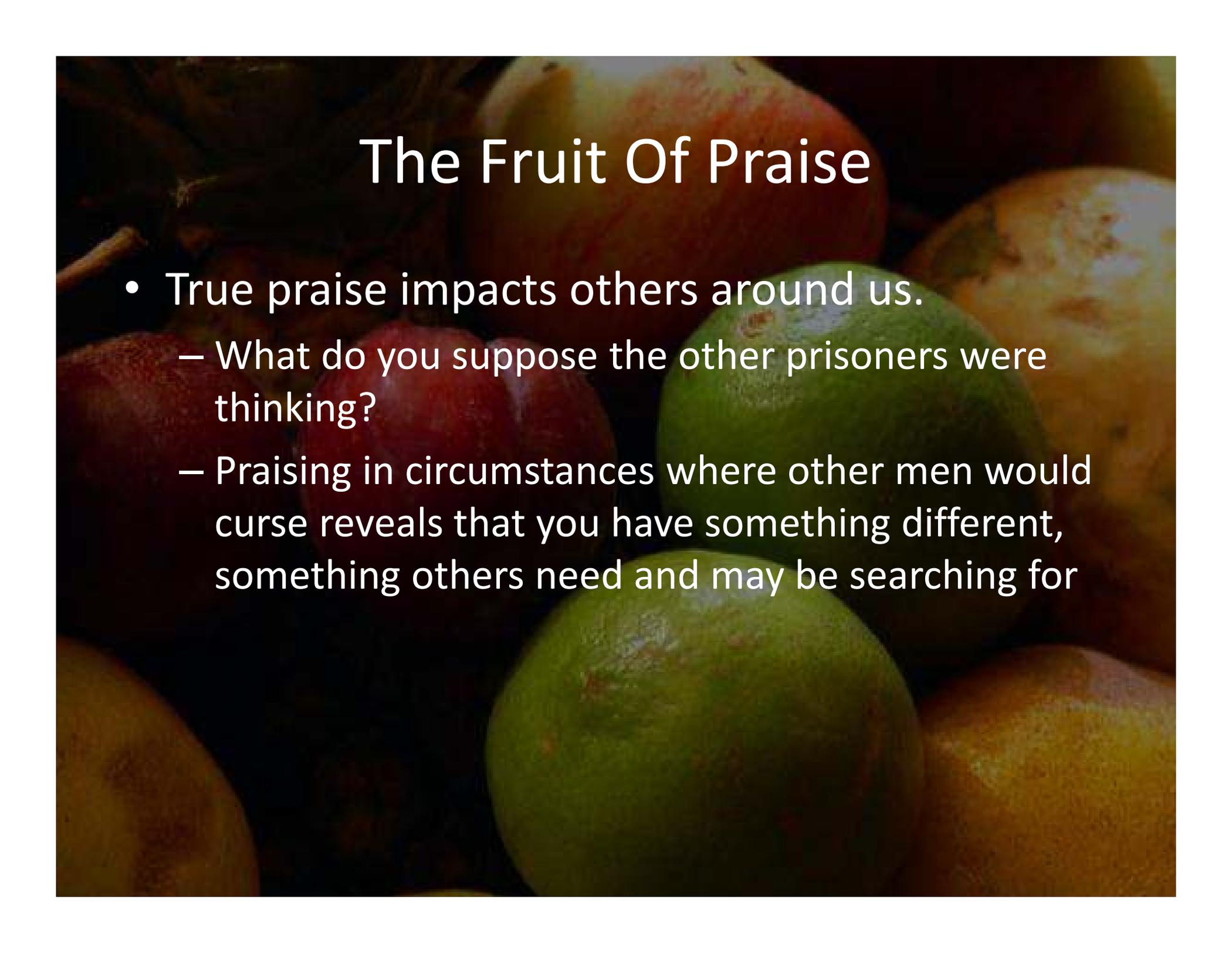
- True praise manifests gratitude to the Lord for all things
  - Phil. 4:10-12 - “But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. 11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: 12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.”

# The Seed Of Praise

- The tougher the trials we bear, the more God has entrusted to us
  - 1Thes. 2:4 - “But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.”
  - Prov. 17:3 - “The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, But the LORD tests the hearts.”

# The Fruit Of Praise

- True praise is a means of evangelism
  - Acts 16:30-34 - “And he brought them out and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? 31 So they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household. 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. 34 Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.”



# The Fruit Of Praise

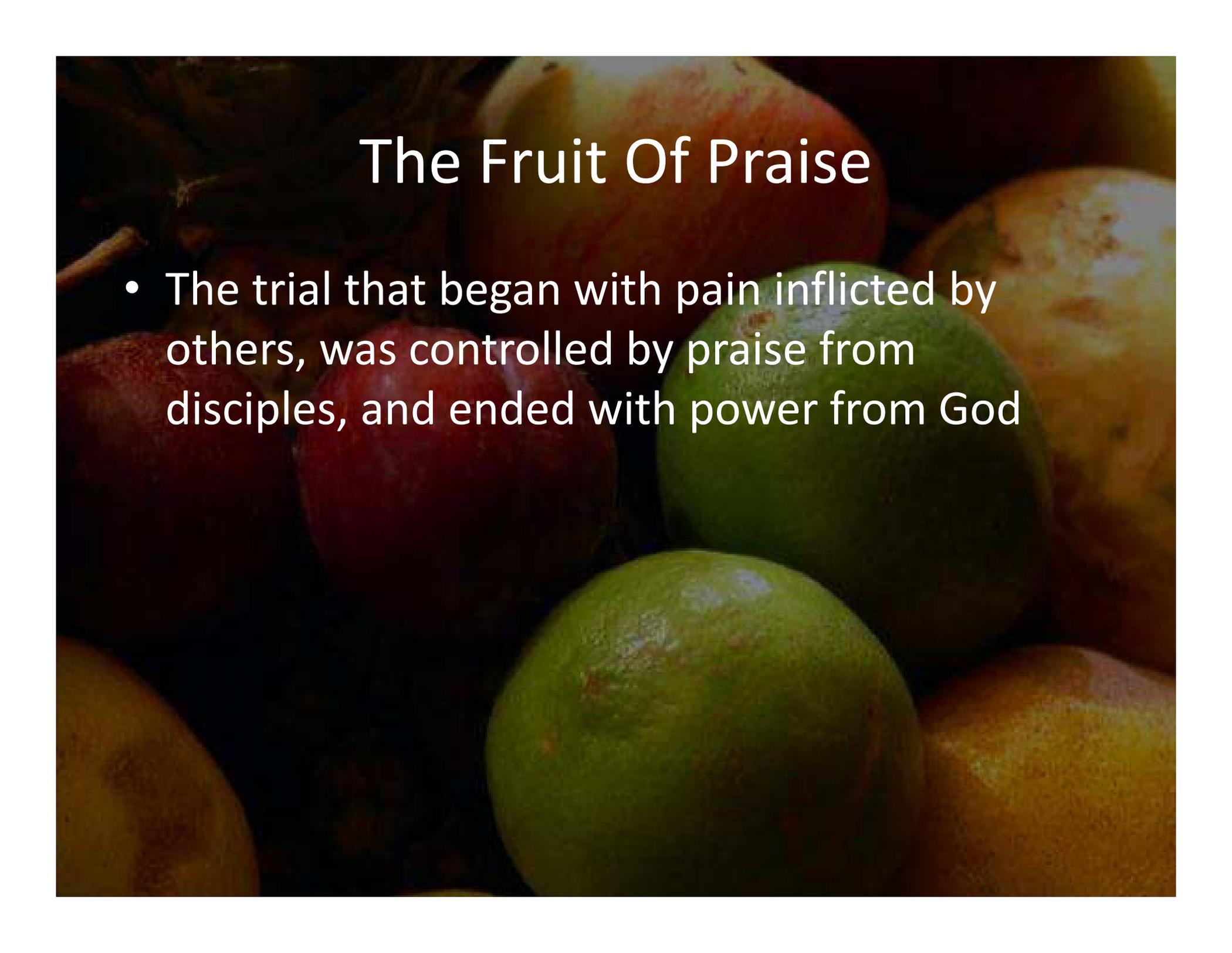
- True praise impacts others around us.
  - What do you suppose the other prisoners were thinking?
  - Praising in circumstances where other men would curse reveals that you have something different, something others need and may be searching for

# The Fruit Of Praise

- The great fruit of true praise:
  - They began as victims
    - Acts 16:22-23 - “Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. 23 And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely.”

# The Fruit Of Praise

- They ended as victors
  - Acts 16:37-39 - “But Paul said to them, They have beaten us openly, uncondemned Romans, and have thrown us into prison. And now do they put us out secretly? No indeed! Let them come themselves and get us out. 38 And the officers told these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans. 39 Then they came and pleaded with them and brought them out, and asked them to depart from the city.”



# The Fruit Of Praise

- The trial that began with pain inflicted by others, was controlled by praise from disciples, and ended with power from God