

# Acts 16:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

## Analysis

**Paul, being grieved** (διαπονηθεὶς, *diaponētheis*)—not anger but godly distress at evil exploiting a human soul. Paul's patience ('many days') shows pastoral wisdom, not impulsiveness.

**I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ** (Παραγγέλλω σοι ἐν ὀνόματι Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ)—the apostolic formula for exorcism uses Christ's authority, not magical incantation. Unlike the Jewish exorcists in Acts 19:13-16, Paul invokes genuine divine power. **He came out the same hour** demonstrates immediate, complete deliverance—but notice this ended the girl's economic value (v.19), triggering persecution. Authentic liberation often costs those who profit from bondage.

## Historical Context

This slave girl practiced Python divination (v.16), associated with the Oracle of Delphi. Roman Philippi was steeped in pagan religion. Her owners exploited her demonic abilities for financial gain—a common practice in the Greco-Roman world where fortune-telling was big business.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. Why did Paul wait 'many days' before confronting the spirit rather than acting immediately?
2. How does this exorcism differ from magical practices, and what does 'in the name of Jesus Christ' signify about the source of Paul's authority?

## Interlinear Text

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τοῦτο δὲ ἐποίει ἐπὶ πολλὰς ἡμέρας διαπονηθεὶς δὲ  
this And did she G1909 many days G2250 being grieved G1278 And G1161  
G5124 G1161 G4160 G4183 G2250 G1278 G1161  
  
ὁ Παῦλος καὶ ἐπιστρέψας τῷ πνεύματι εἶπεν  
G3588 Paul And turned G3588 to the spirit said  
G3972 G2532 G1994 G4151 G2036  
  
Παραγγέλλω σοι ἐν τῷ ὄνόματι Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ  
I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ  
G3853 G4671 G1722 G3588 G3686 G2424 G5547  
  
ἐξῆλθεν ἀπ' αὐτῇ καὶ ἐξῆλθεν αὐτῇ τῇ ὥρᾳ  
he came out out of her And he came out her G3588 hour  
G1831 G575 G846 G2532 G1831 G846 G3588 G5610

## Additional Cross-References

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**Mark 16:17** (Parallel theme): And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

**Acts 3:6** (References Jesus): Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

**Acts 9:34** (References Jesus): And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately.

**Mark 1:34** (Parallel theme): And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.

**Colossians 2:15** (Parallel theme): And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

**Luke 9:1** (Parallel theme): Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.