

When We Pray Together!

Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. **And pray for me, too.** Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike. I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God's ambassador. **So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should.** (Eph 6:18-20 NLT)

Introduction

Spontaneous Survey - if I were to ask a spontaneous question: Did you pray for someone this week? Did you pray with someone this week? Did you tell someone "I will pray for you" this week?

We pray for one another all the time but do we understand or perceive what happens when we pray for or with someone or someone's?

Amazing Story Of The Power Of Prayer

"About that time King Herod Agrippa began to persecute some believers in the church. He had the apostle James (John's brother) killed with a sword. When Herod saw how much this pleased the Jewish people, he also arrested Peter. (This took place during the Passover celebration.) Then he imprisoned him, placing him under the guard of four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring Peter out for public trial after the Passover. But while Peter was in prison, the church prayed very earnestly for him. The night before Peter was to be placed on trial, he was asleep, fastened with two chains between two soldiers. Others stood guard at the prison gate. Suddenly, there was a bright light in the cell, and an angel of the Lord stood before Peter. The angel struck him on the side to awaken him and said, "Quick! Get up!" And the chains fell off his wrists. Then the angel told him, "Get dressed and put on your sandals." And he did. "Now put on your coat and follow me," the angel ordered. So Peter left the cell, following the angel. But all the time he thought it was a vision. He didn't realize it was actually happening. They passed the first and second guard posts and came to the iron gate leading to the city, and this opened for them all by itself. So they passed through and started walking down the street, and then the angel suddenly left him. Peter finally came to his senses. "It's really true!" he said. "The Lord has sent his angel and saved me from Herod and from what the Jewish leaders had planned to do to me!" When he realized this, he went to the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark, where many were gathered for prayer. He knocked at the door in the gate, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to open it. When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the door, she ran back inside and told everyone, "Peter is standing at the door!" "You're out of your mind!" they said. When she insisted, they decided, "It must be his angel." Meanwhile, Peter continued knocking. When they finally opened the door and

saw him, they were amazed. He motioned for them to quiet down and told them how the Lord had led him out of prison. "Tell James and the other brothers what happened," he said. And then he went to another place."

Acts of the Apostles 12:1-17 NLT

When We Pray Together For One Another We Reject Despair

- Even though they must have been shaken by James' death by the sword, they held onto hope for Peter by praying together. "About that time King Herod Agrippa began to persecute some believers in the church. He had the apostle James (John's brother) killed with a sword.
 - Shaken - James was the first Apostle to be executed for his faith. Stephen was the first follower of Christ to be martyred but because Peter James, and John were the inner circle of the early church this was a significant blow.
 - Church Tradition: Early church historian Eusebius preserves an account from Clement of Alexandria stating that the guard who escorted James to the tribunal was so moved by his faith that he confessed Christ on the spot and was beheaded alongside him.
 - Nehemiah Led The Israelites To Pray Together
 - They all made plans to come and fight against Jerusalem and throw us into confusion. But we prayed to our God and guarded the city day and night to protect ourselves. ... Then as I looked over the situation, I called together the nobles and the rest of the people and said to them, "Don't be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes!" (Neh 4:8-9, 14 NLT)

When We Pray Together We Can Be Amazed Together

- opening the door, she ran back inside and told everyone, "Peter is standing at the door!" "You're out of your mind!" they said. When she insisted, they decided, "It must be his angel." Meanwhile, Peter continued knocking. When they finally opened the door and saw him, they were amazed.
 - Healing Service - powerful visitation of healing, intercession and prophetic ministry.
 - York House Of Prayer Antiphonal Singing - the prayer leader will pray a prayer out of the Bible and the singers will echo what they prayed with a new song. Together the whole room join in, captured up in amazement and fascination with the Holy.

- Nehemiah 12 - two choirs singing praise back and forth at the dedication of the temple.
- Isaiah 6 - the heavenly realm vision - They (heavenly beings) were calling out to each other, "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Heaven's Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory!" Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke. (Isa 6:3-4 NLT)
- Other examples - Psalms 136,

When We Pray The Lord Commands Angels To Accomplish His Purposes

- Suddenly, there was a bright light in the cell, and an angel of the Lord stood before Peter. The angel struck him on the side to awaken him and said, "Quick! Get up!" And the chains fell off his wrists. Then the angel told him, "Get dressed and put on your sandals." And he did. "Now put on your coat and follow me," the angel ordered. So Peter left the cell, following the angel.
 - Angels Job Description - Therefore, angels are only servants--spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation. (Heb 1:14 NLT) (ministering spirits sent by God)
 - Angels meet physical needs - Matthew 4:11 when they came and met the needs of Jesus after 40 days in the desert.
 - Angels give us strength - Luke 22:43 when Jesus was weak in the Garden of Gethsemene
 - Angels give supernatural guidance - Acts 27 the angel comes and gives guidance to Paul when on the ship in the midst of the storm.
 - Angels Provide Protection and Deliverance - Acts 12 they come and set the Apostles free from prison. Psalms 91 - He will command His angels to provide protection.
 - Angels Perform Superhuman Feats - Matthew 28:2 an angel rolled away a stone (many tons).
 - Understanding Angelic Ministry
 - As I was praying, Gabriel, whom I had seen in the earlier vision, came swiftly to me at the time of the evening sacrifice. He explained to me, "Daniel, I have come here to give you insight and understanding. The moment you began praying, a command was given. And now I am here to tell you what it was, for you are very precious to God. Listen carefully so that you can understand the meaning of your vision. (Dan 9:21-23 NLT)
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When We Pray Together There Is A Multiplication Of Spiritual Breakthrough

- (Peter and John) - We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard." The council then threatened them further, but they finally let them go because they didn't know how to punish them without starting a riot. For everyone was praising God for this miraculous sign--the healing of a man who had been lame for more than forty years. As soon as they were freed, Peter and John returned to the other believers and told them what the leading priests and elders had said. When they heard the report, all the believers lifted their voices together in prayer to God: "O Sovereign Lord, Creator of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them-- ... And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus." ***After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.*** (Act 4:20-24, 29-31 NLT)