

## **But The Church Prayed**

Acts 12:1-9, 12-16 (NLT)

**1** About that time King Herod Agrippa began to persecute some believers in the church. **2** He had the apostle James (John's brother) killed with a sword. **3** When Herod saw how much this pleased the Jewish people, he also arrested Peter. This took place during the Passover celebration - the days of unleavened bread. **4** 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. **5** But while Peter was in prison, the church prayed very earnestly for him. **6** 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. **7** 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. **8** 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. **9** 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.

**12** When he realized this, he went to the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark, where many were gathered for prayer. **13** He knocked at the door in the gate, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to open it. **14** 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!" **15** "You're out of your mind!" they said. When she insisted, they decided, "It must be his angel." **16** Meanwhile, Peter continued knocking. When they finally opened the door and saw him, they were amazed.

**It is great to have hope but sometimes you have to put action with that hope.**

**Again, BUT is a crisis word, it means things are about to change, things are about to shift**

**We don't see God move publicly because we do not call on Him privately.**

James 4:2 - You have not because you ask not.

**The enemy doesn't want you to understand the power of your personal prayer life.**

**1. Peter's Appointment With Death and Destruction Were Canceled.**

**2. Prayer Gives You the Confidence to Trust God Is Working.**

Acts 12:4-7 (NLT)

**4** 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. **5** But while Peter was in prison, the church prayed very earnestly for him. **6** 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. **7** 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.

**God is about to do a quick work. He is going to move so fast your bread won't even have time to rise.**

**3. Prayer Breaks Chains and Opens Doors.**

Acts 12:7 (NLT)

**7** 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.

Psalms 91:11 (NLT)

HE will order his angels to protect you wherever you go.

**God is able to destroy shackles, break chains and open doors when the church prays.**

**God is about to remove the door of limitation.**

**Private prayer will open public doors.**

**HE is about to OPEN New Doors.**

**4. God Will Defeat the Enemy of Your Breakthrough**

Acts 12:20-23 (NLT)

**20** Now Herod was very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon. So, they sent a delegation to make peace with him because their cities were dependent upon Herod's country for food. The delegates won the support of Blastus, Herod's personal assistant, **21** and an appointment with Herod was granted. When the day arrived, Herod put on his royal robes, sat on his throne, and made a speech to them. **22** The people gave him a great ovation, shouting, "It's the voice of a god, not of a man!"

**23** Instantly, an angel of the Lord struck Herod with a sickness, because he accepted the people's worship instead of giving the glory to God. So, he was consumed with worms and died.

**There are some enemies you have fought before BUT, you will not have to fight again!**

2 Chronicles 7:14

If my people who are called by name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land.