

## The Power of a Praying Church

Acts 12:5-9, 13-17, 24-25 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. <sup>6</sup> And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. <sup>7</sup> Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off his hands. <sup>8</sup> Then the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and tie on your sandals"; and so, he did. And he said to him, "Put on your garment and follow me." <sup>9</sup> So he went out and followed him,

<sup>13</sup> And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a girl named Rhoda came to answer. <sup>14</sup> When she recognized Peter's voice, because of her gladness she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter stood before the gate. <sup>15</sup> But they said to her, "You are beside yourself!" Yet she kept insisting that it was so. So, they said, "It is his angel." <sup>16</sup> Now Peter continued knocking; and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. <sup>17</sup> But motioning to them with his hand to keep silent, he declared to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, "Go, tell these things to James and to the brethren." And he departed and went to another place.

<sup>24</sup> But the word of God grew and multiplied. <sup>25</sup> And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their ministry, and they also took with them John whose surname was Mark.

Acts 12:5 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.

Acts 12:6-10 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. <sup>7</sup> Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off his hands. <sup>8</sup> Then the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and tie on your sandals"; and so, he did. And he said to him, "Put on your garment and

follow me.”<sup>9</sup> So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision.<sup>10</sup> When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.

Acts 12:12-17 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> So, when he had considered *this*, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying.<sup>13</sup> And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a girl named Rhoda came to answer.<sup>14</sup> When she recognized Peter’s voice, because of her gladness she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter stood before the gate.<sup>15</sup> But they said to her, “You are beside yourself!” Yet she kept insisting that it was so. So, they said, “It is his angel.”<sup>16</sup> Now Peter continued knocking; and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished.<sup>17</sup> But motioning to them with his hand to keep silent, he declared to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, “Go, tell these things to James and to the brethren.” And he departed and went to another place.

Matthew 7:7-8 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.<sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

## **1. Prayer Acknowledges Our Dependency On God.**

## **2. Prayer Brings Peace In Times Of Difficulty.**

Ephesians 6:18-20 (NLT)

<sup>18</sup> Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.<sup>19</sup> 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.<sup>20</sup> 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.

## **3. Prayer Advances God’s Kingdom.**

Acts 12:24-25 (NKJV)

<sup>24</sup> But the word of God grew and multiplied. <sup>25</sup> And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their ministry, and they also took with them John whose surname was Mark.

2 Chronicles 7:14-15 (NLT)

<sup>14</sup> Then if my people who are called by my 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 restore their land. <sup>15</sup> My eyes will be open and my ears attentive to every prayer made in this place.