

EARNEST PRAYER

10-25-2020

*About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword, and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. So Peter was kept in prison, **but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.***

Acts 12:1-5

Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, "Dress yourself and put on your sandals."

And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him. When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

Acts 12:6-11

*When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where **many were gathered together and were praying.** And when he knocked at the door of the gateway, a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer. Recognizing Peter's voice, in her joy she did not open the gate but ran in and reported that Peter was standing at the gate. They said to her, "You are out of your mind." But she kept insisting that it was so, and they kept saying, "It is his angel!"*

But Peter continued knocking, and when they opened, they saw him and were amazed. But motioning to them with his hand to be silent, he described to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, "Tell these things to James and to the brothers." Then he departed and went to another place.

Acts 12:12-17

TWO BIG PRAYER MISTAKES:

- 1) OUR PRAYERS ARE TOO **SMALL**
- 2) OUR PRAYERS ARE TOO **GENERAL**

"I command you in the name of God to live because I still have need of you in the work of reforming the church. The Lord will never let me hear that you are dead, but will permit you to survive me. For this I am praying... because I seek only to glorify the name of God." - Martin Luther

*For this reason I **bow my knees before the Father,** from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, Ephesians 3:14-15*

*I **pray** that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, **so that** Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—*

Ephesians 3:16-17

*I **pray** so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have **strength** to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*
Ephesians 3:17-19

“The Holy Spirit descended upon me in a manner that seemed to go through me, body & soul. I could feel the impression, like a wave of electricity, going through & through me. Indeed it seemed to come in waves and waves of liquid love; for I could not express it in any other way. It seemed like the very breath of God.” - Charles Finney

*Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever.
Amen.*
Ephesians 3:20-21