

BEYOND THESE WALLS //

## FULL SEND

### A STUDY ON PRAYER

ILLUSTRATION //

Think of a time you went “Full Send” on something.....

(Full Send: going all in, withholding nothing without fear of failure)

Tonight we are going to look at a story in the Bible where the church went full send for their friend Peter....

SCRIPTURE // Acts 12:1-11 pg.181

“About that time King Herod Agrippa<sup>[a]</sup> began to persecute some believers in the church.<sup>2</sup> He had the apostle James (John’s brother) killed with a sword. <sup>3</sup> When Herod saw how much this pleased the Jewish people, he also arrested Peter. (This took place during the Passover celebration.<sup>[b]</sup>) <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> But while Peter was in prison, the church prayed very earnestly for him.

<sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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.

**11 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<sup>[c]</sup> had planned to do to me!"**

## 1. Pray Earnestly (vs. 1-5)

- Within this passage we see at Peter's very hour of need the church goes to pray earnestly....
  - Earnestly: with sincere + intense conviction, serious.
- We see that the church understood that prayer is not a half hearted, nor lackadaisical action.
  - Any time we go into the presence of God, it is a holy and reverent moment that requires not only sincerity, but also reverence.
- At this moment, the church knew the only one who could save Peter was God himself! This required an earnest prayer....intercession.

Intercession -

Prayerfully standing in the gap for someone else to petition on behalf of their needs.

- Intercessory prayer is not a prayer of praise or prayer of one's own needs; rather, prayer specifically and persistently for deep needs of others.
- Sometimes in our own lives we face problems that are out of our control and are in need of a move of God.
  - The answer is to pray earnestly because prayer works!

## 2. Prayer Works

Illustration // Briefly share a time you did something with someone who was amazing or did it at an elite level.

- I'm going to share the time I was on the high school basketball team and we had a player that was REALLY GOOD! We may have doubted our ability but we always knew he would come through. The team worked not because we were the best, our team was good because the best was on our team!
- **Prayer works not because you have power, prayer works because the one who holds all power calls you His own.**

SCRIPTURE // v 6-11

- Peter was guarded by four quaternions of soldiers which is 4 units of 4. 16 guards.
- One quaternion for each watch of the night (Acts 12:4). Thus every precaution was taken against his escape from prison. Two of each quaternion were in turn

stationed at the door (12:6), and to two the apostle was chained according to Roman custom.

- AKA there was no possible way he could escape!
- But God in his power and His might not only broke Peter out but he simply walked out with the assistance of an angel!
- God has the power to do the impossible and miraculous!
- **Miracles are the result of believers who fully send prayers and requests to an all powerful God in faith knowing that He will move.**
- **Jeremiah 32:27** - Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for me? (Nothing is too hard for Him)
- **Ephesians 1:5** - God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. (We are God's children that He loves)
- **Ephesians 6:18** - Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.
- **1 John 5:14-15** - And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

#### **APPLICATION //**

- The thing that is amazing about this story is we see the miraculous power of God working and moving. From Peter's and from our view reading it, we see the result of the prayers of the believers.
- The thing is, the believers didn't see at that moment if their prayer worked.
- They didn't know God would send an angel, or make Peter invisible to the guards. They just prayed.
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- Sometimes, if we are honest, we pray for things not knowing what's on the other side of our prayers. We pray not knowing the way or method God will use to answer those prayers.
- Our job isn't to manipulate God to do things the way we want, our job is to align our hearts with God's will and pray that it be done.

#### **Altar //**

- Salvation
- Prayer Stations (Family/Friends, Schools, Gen Z, America, Nation of Israel, etc.)
  - Use whatever prayer stations you feel you should do.