

The Power of Prayer: A Praying Church

Thursday, January 5, 2023

Day 4

Read Acts 12:1-19

Key Verse

"Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church."
Acts 12:5 (NKJV)

Key Reflection

Peter was in jail for a number of days. It was during the celebration of the Passover or Feast of the Unleavened Bread. This was an eight-day festival. Moreover, the law stated that no trial could happen until after the festival was over. Therefore, THE CHURCH WAS IN AN INTENSE CONTINUAL PRAYER FOR PETER OVER THE SPAN OF SOME DAYS. Because of their devotion to praying for Peter, he was miraculously freed from prison. There is power when the church gathers together to pray for one common purpose.

Thought

Jim Cymbala, in his classic *Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire*, says that if the church is going to reach its full potential in God, it must have an appetite for spiritual power that can only be achieved by having continuous communion with God.⁵ Miracles take place when the church prays together in faith. It is intense prayer where those who pray believe that God is omnipotent, willing, and able! A praying church has an expectation for God to answer. Yet, we as the church must elevate its expectation because God can do the very thing you ask of him and more (Ephesians 3:20). Remember, Peter, stood at the door knocking at the door of the church. It symbolizes that God, at times, has answered our prayers, but in our hearts, we fail to believe that God will do it! Shiloh, elevate your expectation as the church and expect God to answer!

Prayer

Lord, I believe who you say you are in your word. I believe that nothing is impossible with you (Luke 1:37). I believe that you are the Lord of all flesh and that nothing is too hard for you (Jeremiah 32:27). You are the omnipotent God who can do anything. I call on you to do the miraculous in my life and in the life of my brothers and sisters at Shiloh. I join together with them as your church to call upon you to do the miraculous in our lives. Show yourself to be God in my life and in the life of Shiloh. We are a praying church who is calling on a mighty God! Do it, Lord! In the name of Jesus, I pray, Amen.

Questions

1. What miracles have you seen in your life that you know are a result of the church in prayer?
2. What are your expectations of God when you come to God in prayer? Do you need to elevate your expectations of God when you pray?

⁵ Jim Cymbala, *Fresh Wind Fresh Fire*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1997), p. 183-84.