



Praying Like the Acts Church = Results Like the Acts Church Acts 12

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. **Ephesians 3:17b-21** (NIV)

LIKE THE ACTS CHURCH...

1. WE / I HAVE A _____

- We should pray because of the _____ of our extraordinary _____
... King Herod got it into his head to go after some of the church members.² He murdered James, John's brother.³ When he saw how much it raised his popularity ratings... he arrested Peter—during Passover Week, mind you—and had him thrown in jail, putting four squads of four soldiers each to guard him. He was planning a public lynching after Passover.⁵ All the time Peter was under heavy guard in the jailhouse. **Acts 12:1-5a** (MSG)

Our fight is not against human beings. It is against the rulers, the authorities and the powers of this dark world. It is against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly world. **Ephesians 6:12** (NIV)

- We should pray because of the _____ of our very ordinary _____

Now the (Jewish) leaders...looked at Peter and John and realized they were typical peasants—uneducated, utterly ordinary fellows **Acts 4:13a** (VOICE)

... and not because we think we can do anything of lasting value by ourselves. Our only power and success comes from God **2 Corinthians 3:5** (TLB)

- We should pray because of the _____ of our sovereign _____

Then the time came for Herod to bring him out for the kill. That night, even though shackled to two soldiers, one on either side, Peter slept like a baby. And there were guards at the door keeping their eyes on the place. Herod was taking no chances!⁷ Suddenly there was an angel at his side and light flooding the room. The angel shook Peter and got him up: "Hurry!" The handcuffs fell off his wrists. The angel

said, "Get dressed. Put on your shoes." Peter did it. Then, "Grab your coat and let's get out of here." Peter followed him, but didn't believe it was really an angel—he thought he was dreaming.¹⁰⁻¹¹ Past the first guard and then the second, they came to the iron gate that led into the city. It swung open before them on its own, and they were out on the street, free as the breeze. At the first intersection the angel left him, going his own way. That's when Peter realized it was no dream. "I can't believe it—this really happened! The Master sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's vicious little production and the spectacle the Jewish mob was looking forward to." **Acts 12:6-11** (MSG)

He rescued me from my powerful enemy, from my foes, who were too strong for me. **Psalms 18:17** (NIV)

2. WE / I SHOULD _____

All the time that Peter was under heavy guard in the jailhouse, the church prayed for him most strenuously. **Acts 12:5** (MSG)

- "All the time" describes the _____ of prayer in an unstoppable church

Always keep on praying. **1 Thessalonians 5:17** (TLB)

** **NOTE:** Variations of "pray" or "prayer" appear _____ times in the book of Acts

- "strenuously" describes the _____ of prayer in an unstoppable church

... for tremendous power is released through the passionate, heartfelt prayer of a godly believer! **James 5:16** (TPT)

- "the church prayed" describes the _____ of prayer in an unstoppable church

** **NOTE:** About _____ % of the times that a Christian prays in Acts it is "_____"

They all joined together constantly in prayer ... **Acts 1:4** (NIV)

3. WE / I SHOULD _____

Still shaking his head, amazed, he went to Mary's house, the Mary who was John Mark's mother. The house was packed with praying friends. When he knocked on the door to the courtyard, a young woman named Rhoda came to see who it was. But when she recognized his voice—Peter's voice!—she was so excited and eager to tell everyone Peter was there that she forgot to open the door and left him standing in the street.¹⁵⁻¹⁶ But they wouldn't believe her, dismissing her, dismissing her report. "You're crazy," they said. She stuck by her story, insisting. They still wouldn't believe her and said, "It must be his angel." All this time poor Peter was standing out in the street, knocking away.¹⁶⁻¹⁷ Finally they opened up and saw him—and went wild! **Acts 12:12-17a** (MSG)

(SOME) EXAMPLES OF PRAYER FROM THE UNSTOPPABLE CHURCH IN ACTS

Acts 2:42 - Acts 3:1 - Acts 4:29 - Acts 6:3-4 - Acts 9:13 - Acts 16:25