

To Seek & To Save Through Prayer (Acts 12:1-5)

*“Never forget, the only place power ever comes before prayer is in the dictionary.”
– Dr. David Gibbs*

INTRODUCTION: This statement is self evident in the book of Acts. (Acts 2:42)
I believe that any success we have seen in this church has been due to the faithful prayer of our members. Throughout the book of Acts the early Christians continued in prayer and prospered by GOD’S POWER!

Ephesians 6:18, “Praying always with all prayer...”

Philippians 4:6, “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

“Poverty-stricken as the Church is today in many things, she is most stricken here, in the place of prayer. We have many organizers, but few agonizers; many players and payers, few pray-ers; many singers, few clingers; lots of pastors, few wrestlers with God; many fears, few tears; much fashion, little passion; many interferers, few intercessors; many writers, but few fighters. Failing in prayer, we fail everywhere.”

I. THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PRAYER

- A. PERSECUTION PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR PRAYER (ACTS 12:1)
- B. FAMILY PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR PRAYER.
- C. OTHERS PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR PRAYER. (ACTS 2:42)
- D. YOUR PASTOR PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR PRAYER.

II Thessalonians 3:1, “Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:”

- E. YOUR CHURCH PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PRAYER.
- F. THE SICK PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PRAYER.

II. THE OUTPOURING OF PRAYER (ACTS 12:5)

- A. FERVENT PRAYER; WITHOUT CEASING

James 5:16, “. . . The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

Exodus 32:32, “Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.”

- B. CORPORATE PRAYER (Acts 12:5, “. . . of the church. . .”; 12:12b)
- C. PERSONAL PRAYER (Acts 12:5, “. . . for him. . .”)

III. THE OUTCOME OF PRAYER

CONCLUSION: A Seeking & Saving Church is a Praying Church. We have many opportunities but no outpouring!

Jude 1:20, “But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,”

*“Whole days and weeks I have spent on the ground in silent or vocal prayers.
- George Whitefield*

“Prayer may not always change things – But it always changes us!”

“Satan trembles when he sees the weakest Christian on his knees.”

“This sin hungry age needs a prayer hungry church – We’re not talking about perfection – we’re talking about Progress.”

“We cannot stumble when we’re on our knees.”
