

## The Prayer of the Church

### Acts 12:5-11

1. Praying for the leadership is a vital aspect of the Body of Christ.
2. The Bible encourages believers to actively pray holistically (needs), physically, and spiritually.
3. Praying together builds unity and strengthens the Body of Christ.

### Acts 12:5

- 1) The church \_\_\_\_\_ unceasingly to God.
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_: means "stretched out" or "strained." It conveys a desperate, fervent, and \_\_\_\_\_ intercession, not a casual or routine prayer.
- 3) The church was pouring out her \_\_\_\_\_ to God.
- 4) This is the \_\_\_\_\_ they deploy against the world's power.
- 5) Luke 22:44: "And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly [ektenōs]..." (The same root word is used for Jesus' intense prayer in Gethsemane).

### Acts 12:6-11

1. Sleeping: Peter was at \_\_\_\_\_ while facing death – trusting in \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Angel of the Lord: A direct agent of God's power. The angel's actions are swift and commanding ("Get up," "Dress yourself"). This is no negotiation; it is a rescue operation.
3. Struck Peter on the side: A physical action to wake him from a deep sleep.
4. Chains fell off: A supernatural sign of God's power over \_\_\_\_\_ restraints.
5. Thought he was seeing a vision: Peter was initially confused – dreaming. This was \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Gate... opened of its own accord: This is a \_\_\_\_\_ – not picked, not forced, but divinely opened.
7. "Now I am sure...": Peter's faith was confirmed by the evidence.
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ was from "the Lord", not a lucky break, but the true source.

### Acts 12:12-17

- 1) House of Mary: This Mary is the mother of John Mark (author of Mark's Gospel and Barnabas's cousin). Her home was a central meeting place for the Jerusalem church.
- 2) Rhoda... ran back without opening the gate: Her joy overcame her common sense.
- 3) "You are out of your mind..." "It is his angel!": The prayer warriors' reacted in disbelief. They are praying fervently for Peter's release but cannot believe the answer to their prayer is at the door.
- 4) It reveals the gap between their \_\_\_\_\_ in God's power and their expectation.
- 5) Tell... James: This is not James the apostle (who was just killed), but James the brother of Jesus, who has now become the leader of the Jerusalem church. They honored the transfer of leadership.
- 6) Herod's maximum-security prison was met with the church's maximum effort – prayer.
- 7) The world's powers can only be defeated by the church's power source – God.

### Acts 12:18-19

1. No little disturbance: The soldiers' lives were on the line; they were in a panic.
2. Examined... and ordered... put to \_\_\_\_\_: if a prisoner escaped, the guards responsible would suffer the prisoner's intended fate.
3. Went to another place: Peter went into hiding. His miraculous release did not grant him immunity from further persecution.