

## FIVE SMOOTH STONES

*“The Book of Acts: The Power of Prayer in Times of Crisis”*  
(Acts 12)

### ❖ THE DANGER EXPERIENCED BY THE CHURCH

*“In this world, ye shall have tribulation.” (John 16:33)*

Consider this danger experienced by the early church in the text. Let's think about:

- What They Had Previously Faced

*“He killed James the brother of John with the sword,” (Acts 12:2)*

- What They Were Possibly Facing

*“and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. ...” (Acts 12:3)*

### ❖ THE DEVOTION EXPRESSED IN THE CHURCH

*“So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.” (Acts 12:5)*

- The Fact of Their Prayer is Revealing

*“Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison.” (Acts 12:6)*

- The Form of Their Prayer is Revealing

*“... but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.” (Acts 12:5)*

- A Partnership

*“...many were gathered together and were praying.” (Acts 12:12)*

- A Priority

Notice in verse 5 that the prayers were made *“for him.”*

- A Passion

Notice the word *“earnest”* in verse 5.

## ❖ THE DELIVERANCE EXTENDED TO THE CHURCH

*“And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, ‘Get up quickly.’ And the chains fell off his hands.” (Acts 12:7)*

- It Took the Prayers of the People

*"Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not." (James 4:2)*

*"This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting." (Mark 9:29)*

- It Transcended the Prayers of the People

*"They said to her, 'You are out of your mind.' But she kept insisting that it was so, and they kept saying, 'It is his angel!'" (Acts 12:15)*