

THE POWER OF A PRAYING CHURCH
ROCKY RIVER CHURCH – SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2026
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Acts 12 shows us four powerful lessons about what happens when the church prays. Here's what we learn.

#1. The Church faces _____.

“Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword...” -Acts 12:1-2

“When he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people.” -Acts 12:3-4

#2. The Church responds to opposition _____.

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

Throughout the book of Acts, the church came back to prayer again and again. Here are a few key examples.

- In the Upper Room – before Pentecost – when they weren't sure what was going to happen next, they prayed (Acts 1:14).
- When they were threatened and needed courage, they prayed (Acts 4:23-31).
- When they needed wisdom in selecting leaders and missionaries, they prayed (Acts 6:6, 13:3).

#3. God moves _____.

“Many were gathered together and were praying.” -Acts 12:12

“Recognizing Peter's voice, in her joy she did not open the gate but ran in and reported that Peter was standing at the gate.” -Acts 12:14

#4. The Church trusts God _____.

“But the word of God increased and multiplied.” -Acts 12:24

→ So, if this is the power of a praying church, how do we live that out in our lives and in our church today?

1) **Make prayer your** _____, **NOT your**
_____.

2) _____ **in prayer.**

What do I pray for:

- That God will fill up both services and break online records.
- Pray for our volunteers – the ones we have now – and the ones we need.
- Pray that God will send us lost people and that He will save them!
- Pray for our Google ads and social media ads.
- Pray that Easter Sunday would strengthen our faith and blow us away!
- Pray for the people you're going to invite to Rocky River Church on Easter Sunday.

3) **Expect God to** _____.

What if **Rocky River Church** became known as a place where people don't just talk about prayer – **we actually pray?**

Where people pray for marriages.

Pray for prodigals.

Pray for healing.

Pray for revival in our community.

Acts 12 reminds us that when the church prays, **chains fall and doors open.**

