

Acts
What Do Good People Do When Bad Things Happen?
July 21, 2024

Acts 12:1-11 It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. When he saw that this met with approval among the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Festival of Unleavened Bread. After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover. So Peter was kept in prison, but **the church was earnestly praying** to God for him. The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, **Peter was sleeping** between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. **“Quick, get up!” he said, and the chains fell off Peter’s wrists.** Then the angel said to him, “Put on your clothes and sandals.” And Peter did so. “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me,” the angel told him. Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, **“Now I know** without a doubt that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from Herod’s clutches and from everything the Jewish people were hoping would happen.”

What Do Good People Do When Bad Things Happen:

1. They _____.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Acts 12:12-17 When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where **many people had gathered and were praying.** Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant named Rhoda came to answer the door. When she recognized Peter’s voice, **she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it** and exclaimed, “Peter is at the door!” **“You’re out of your mind,” they told her.** When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, “It must be his angel.” But **Peter kept on knocking,** and when they opened the door and saw him, they were **astonished.** Peter motioned

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with his hand for them to be quiet and **described how the Lord had brought him out of prison.**

2. They Trust and _____.

Acts 12:6 The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, **Peter was sleeping** between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and **sentries** stood guard at the entrance.

Matthew 8:23-26 Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But **Jesus was sleeping**. The disciples went and woke him, saying, “Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!” He replied, “You of little faith, why are you so afraid?” Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

Isaiah 26:3 You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.

Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

3. They Listen, Obey, and Take _____.

Acts 12:7 Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. “**Quick, get up!**” he said, **and the chains fell off Peter’s wrists.**

James 1:2-4 My brethren, count it all **joy** when you fall into **various trials**, knowing that the testing of your faith produces **patience**. But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Walk Away: When I walk through a trial, I will choose to _____ in faith while resting and waiting for God’s next steps, and then I will get up and _____ whatever God wants me to do.

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