



Jason Smith - A Praying Church

***Acts 12:1-5* About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. ² He killed James the brother of John with the sword,**

³ and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread.

⁴ 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.

⁵ So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.

Introduction

The power of a church is not in its programs, its music, or its buildings—it is in its prayer.

A praying church is a powerful church, because it taps into heaven's resources. When God's people pray, chains break, doors open, and miracles happen.

1. A Praying Church Stands Together in Unity

- In Acts 12, the church didn't scatter in fear when Peter was arrested—they gathered in faith.
- Prayer binds the body of Christ together.

- Where two or three agree in prayer, Jesus promised to be in their midst (Matthew 18:20).

2. A Praying Church Releases God's Power

- While the church prayed, God sent an angel to deliver Peter from prison.
- Prayer moves the hand of God where human effort cannot reach.
- Programs may impress people, but prayer moves heaven.

3. A Praying Church Sees Miracles and Testimonies

- Peter knocked at the door while the church was still praying!
- They were astonished, but that's the fruit of fervent prayer.
- A praying church will have stories of healing, provision, and salvation.

Conclusion

If we want to see revival in our homes, our community, and our world, it begins with prayer. A praying church is a growing church, a strong church, and a victorious church. Let us be the kind of church that prays without ceasing—because when the church prays, God answers!

Call to Action

“Church, let us recommit ourselves to being a praying church. Not just on Sundays, but daily—lifting one another up, interceding for the lost, and crying out for revival. If we pray, God will move!”