

**God of the Impossible**  
**Full Send Message Series Week 12**  
**Acts 12:1-25**

Pastor Jeff Burkholder  
December 10, 2023

**How to navigate through situations that appear to be hopeless:**

**1. Rest in God's sovereignty. (Acts 12:1-6)**

“God allowed Herod to kill James, but He kept him from harming Peter. It was the throne in heaven that was in control, not the throne on earth...It is good to know that, no matter how difficult the trials or how disappointing the news, God is still on the throne and has everything under control. We may not always understand His ways, but we know His sovereign will is best.”

Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Dynamic*, David C Cook,  
Colorado Springs, CO, 2009, p. 175.

**2. Utilize prayer. (Acts 12:5)**

“Prayer isn't retreat. It's an act of holy defiance. It's an act of placing dependent confidence in the sovereign God who hears the prayers of his people and rules over all.”

Tony Merida, *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Acts*,  
B&H Publishing Group, Nashville, TN, 2017, p. 173.

“The truth is, we are God's children, and God's children will never be orphans! God is in control! He has promised to never abandon us or leave us to our resources (see John 14:18; Hebrews 13:5). His angels are sent to minister to us. Prayer brings amazing power into our lives.”

R. Kent Hughes, *Acts*, Crossway, Wheaton, IL, 2014, p. 171.

### 3. Trust in God's power. (Acts 12:6-11)

“No matter how grim, perplexing, and difficult our situation is, God and his angels are present to minister to us. He can deliver anytime, anywhere, anyplace. If we ever think God does not understand or cannot or will not help, we have bad theology. If we could have our eyes opened right now, wherever we are or whatever is going on around us, we would say, ‘God is in this place.’”

R. Kent Hughes, *Acts*, Crossway, Wheaton, IL, 2014, p. 168.

### 4. Remember, God's plans prevail. (Acts 12:24-25)

“The King was in charge when James died and in charge when Peter went free. He could have saved James, but he didn’t—for his own sovereign purposes. (And let’s remember, the moment James died, Jesus was there to meet him in heaven.) The King can use miraculous deliverance or martyrdom for gospel advancement.”

Tony Merida, *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Acts*, B&H Publishing Group, Nashville, TN, 2017, p. 171.