



## Read about the Prayers of the Church for Peter and God's answer

### Acts 12:1-19

Today our example is the corporate prayer of the Body. King Herod Agrippa had James killed and saw that it pleased the Jews. He arrested Peter and put him under heavy guard. "But while Peter was in prison, **the church prayed very earnestly for him.**" Acts 12:5 (NLT) Peter, like us at times, was surprised when God's deliverance came. He thought it was a vision as he was freed from prison, without being seen or heard by the guards. The chains fell off, the gate opened, and the angel left him outside the prison.

Peter went to the house where the church gathered for prayer. The servant girl was so overjoyed she left Peter at the door to announce him to the others. They didn't believe her, "You're out of your mind!... When she insisted, they decided, 'It must be his angel.'" Acts 12:15 (NLT) The answer to their prayer was knocking on the door but they were as surprised as Peter to find the deliverance was real! In verses 16-17 we read, "... When they finally opened the door and saw him, they were amazed. He motioned for them to quiet down and **told them how the Lord had led him out of prison.**" Their corporate prayers had been answered, bringing unity, increased faith and a greater awareness of one another's needs. God calls us to pray together for deliverance for ourselves and others.

### Prayer Focus:

- **Pray for a greater passion for prayer** within your church body.
- **Pray for deliverance for pastors/leaders from the persecution of those who oppose the gospel.**
- Peter's story is about deliverance from persecution, but let's also **pray for deliverance for those who are imprisoned by sin.**
  - Pray that chains of bondage will drop off by the power of the Holy Spirit – chains of addiction, shame, fear, etc.

**Pastors/leaders, work to develop opportunities for corporate prayer** both in your prayer gatherings and in your corporate worship services.