

Acts Chapter 12 - Prayer and Prison Bars

Acts - Part 18 Acts 12
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Sleep Tight?

"The night before trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers (Acts 12:6)

Have courage for the great sorrows of life and patience for the small ones, and when you have labored and accomplished your daily tasks, *go to sleep in peace, God is awake.* - Victor Hugo

Psalm 3:5 I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the Lord sustains me. -David when he fled from his son Absalom

Psalm 4:8 In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety. -King David

Philippians 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. -Paul of Tarsus

Prayer:

Jesus tells us that we should **pray boldly**, keeping in mind that it's **His will, not ours...** which is always best!

-Boldly: (Matt. 7:7-11; Heb. 4:16; James 1:6-8; 1 Jn 5:14-15)

-His will: (Matt. 6:10; Lk 22:42; Heb 10:7; 1 Jn 5:14)

There is a balance. One cannot insist that God should always work miracles. On the other hand, one should not rule out that God can work miracles! -Teaching the Text: Acts by D. Garland

"Here they are praying, and full of faith, trusting in God, and yet when the prayer is answered, they tell the servant that she's crazy!" - N.T. Wright, Acts for Everyone page 185-186

Faithfulness?:

We live in a world that tends to value upward progress; making more money this year than last. Advancing in our careers. Moving to a bigger house in a nicer neighborhood. Having our kids succeed and progress in work and family.

Peter's life reminds us that God's purpose and work in our lives is rarely an elevator ride up, but more like a roller coaster. The goal is to follow on the tracks God is leading you on - each day - and the journey will be full of ups and downs. Following is the Goal!



Community Group Questions:

1. What did you hear? What hit home from the message? How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?
2. Despite the hostile political climate, the early church continues to grow. Many American Christians would like to see the country return to its traditional Christian roots. Would that make a difference in the health and growth in the American church today or not?
3. How well do you sleep? Considering Psalms 3:5 & 4:8 do you believe there is a spiritual connection to restful sleep? If so, what would improve your rest?

Notes:
