

This week's dose of encouragement comes from the *Revive Our Hearts Cry Out* challenge. If you visit their website you can catch up on past days.

So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church. — Acts 12:5

The apostle Peter was as good as dead.

In Acts 12, the Church was still mourning the execution of James by King Herod while Peter sat imprisoned—slated as the next in line to face the sword. An extra security force was assigned to Peter to make sure he couldn't escape as he had once before (Acts 5:19–24).

The Church surely felt powerless to stop the inevitable from happening. Their one and only hope to save Peter rested in the hands of another King—Jesus, who'd given them His Spirit and taught them the power of prayer. **In truth, they possessed a mightier weapon than those of Herod's four squads of soldiers:**

Earnest prayer for Peter was made to God by the church (Acts 12:5).

As they agonized in fervent prayer for his release, Peter was rescued supernaturally by an angel and escorted out of prison just before the dawning of execution day. When Peter showed up at Mary's door, the kneeling brothers and sisters inside were in total shock! **God has not changed. The God who sent an angel to deliver Peter from death is the same God who can deliver the Church today.** Is it possible that we don't see the amazing work of God like the early Church did because we've abandoned our prayer stations?

Perhaps the only thing that's changed is the Church not prioritizing prayer.

Our present circumstances look bleak. Is there anything the Church can do today to reverse the tide of evil, hatred, disease, and division? Yes! The answer is to cry out to God using the powerful weapon of united, fervent, earnest prayer.

May the Church once again take up its authority in prayer and be amazed at what God will do!

HOW TO PRAY

Pray in bold faith for spiritual awakening and revival in the Church “to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us.” Give God thanks and ask Him to glorify His Son throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen (Eph. 3:20–21).

WHAT TO PRAY

- Find a prayer group to join in your church and begin praying earnestly for God’s kingdom like the church in Jerusalem. Cry out for more intercessors who will stand in the gap (Ezek. 22:30) and set the Church ablaze for His glory through prayer. If there isn’t a group to join, ask God to show you who to invite, and start one.
- Ask the Father to use you to ignite a movement of prayer in your church, home, and community until Christ assumes His rightful place on the throne of every heart.