



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Prison Break!

Focus Verses: Acts 12:7-9 - ⁷ And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands. ⁸ And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me. ⁹ And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.

Lesson Text: Acts 12:1-17

Truth About God: God takes care of His children.

Truth For My Life: I believe God will take care of His people, even by miraculous intervention.

Throughout the Old Testament, God is consistently known as a deliverer. Nothing changed in our unchanging God when He came in flesh. The prophets foretold of Jesus in similar language: *“And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins”* (Romans 11:26-27). **Our Savior is our deliverer, and He has repeatedly demonstrated this characteristic when His children have been in trouble.**

Peter was certainly in trouble. The king of Judea, Herod Agrippa, had put Peter into prison. Herod Agrippa was the grandson of Herod the Great, who tried to have Jesus killed after the wise men presented themselves to him concerning Jesus' birth. He was also personally responsible for the execution of James, the brother of John, and revealed the joy this act produced among the Jewish religious elite. He decided to continue his murderous pattern by having Simon Peter arrested as well, intending to carry out his execution sometime after Easter.

The night before Peter was to be brought out for public execution, God sent His angel to intervene. The reason is made quite clear: *“Prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him”* (Acts 12:5). That angel entered Peter's cell unseen and unheard, while Peter was asleep between the two guards chained to him. The miraculous power of God was on full display when a light filled the darkness of that prison, yet no one awakened, neither Peter nor his guards. The angel struck Peter on his side to awaken him and commanded him to stand. When he did, the chains wrapped around him fell to the ground. The angel instructed Peter to get dressed and to follow him. **God's word of deliverance needed God's work of direction.** Then the angel began to lead the way. It was hard for Peter to believe what happened next, for they passed through both the first and the second ward.

When Rhoda heard and recognized Peter's voice. But she didn't open the door for him; she ran back into the house to testify that Peter was at the gate. No one believed her. Peter continued to knock until the disruption became too much and the people opened the gate to quiet the matter. When Peter recounted to them how God delivered him, their praise must have filled the house. Provision turns petitions into praise breaks. **We always must remember that God's works in our lives not only for our good; they are also meant to encourage those around us.**

Today manifold testimonies exist of those who have experienced exactly that type of miraculous touch. Whether an angel was involved may be uncertain, but the chains that consistently bound them fell immediately powerless in their lives. We must embrace this truth that God is still a deliverer, not just for Simon Peter and others, but for us as well. God is no respecter of persons, and the accounts we have read and heard of His delivering power are meant to help us believe in what He can do for us. He is not merely a deliverer; He is my deliverer.

Miracles are much more than simply historical content of the Bible. They are ongoing realities in our world today. Each day God intervenes in the lives of people in ways so far beyond our human abilities, they confound experts. Because God's intervention is unexplainable, some critics deny it even occurs. While we certainly marvel at God's power, we should never be surprised when God performs miracles. It is His very nature to do so. They are only miracles from our limited and earthly perspective. **To God, they are merely acts of His will, which is not bound by laws of nature or time.** He still delivers captives from prisons of all kinds.