

THE PRISON OF GOD'S _____
Acts 12:1-19

- I. The early days of the New Testament church
- A. Witnessed the power of God moving in miraculous ways.
1. _____ people were saved on one occasion. Acts 2:41
 2. _____ were saved on another occasion. Acts 4:4
- B. The early church was marked by the _____ presence and power of God.
1. He was with them to such a degree that "fear came upon every soul" Acts 2:43
 2. God's power and presence produced _____ and harmony within the church. Acts 2:42-47
 3. Souls were being saved on a _____ basis. Acts 2:47
 4. The people were excited, busy, and holy; the church was growing; God was glorified; Jesus was being preached and sinners were being saved.
- C. _____ everyone was pleased!
1. The Jews hated the early church because the church preached that Jesus was the _____.
 2. The church preached that Jesus had been _____ by the Jews and that He had risen from the dead.
 3. The Jews hated the message of the Gospel, because so many Jews were turning from Judaism to Christianity, Acts 19:9; 23; 24:22
 4. The Jewish leaders had tried _____ the Apostles and forbidding them to preach the Gospel, Acts 4:1-23.
 - a. That did not work, so they arrested _____, put him on trial and stoned him to death, Acts 6:8-7:60
 - b. This failed to achieve their desired results thus they continued their efforts to try and stop the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - c. They used men like Saul of Tarsus, but he wound up getting _____.
 - d. This persecution led to the saints and many members of the church being _____ throughout the earth.
 - e. Still, the church continued to grow and prosper.
- II. Peter's Prison of God's Power Acts 12:1-19
- A. Herod, seeking favor with the Jews, arrested _____, the brother of John and had him executed. Vs 1-2
- B. When he saw this pleased the Jews, he arrested Peter, and _____ to kill him also. Vs 3-5
1. Peter was in this prison through _____ fault of his own, but because he preached the Gospel.
 2. He was living right, walking with God, and preaching Jesus as the _____ way to life eternal.
 3. People who live for the Lord are _____ they are going to have their own tests and trials.
 - a. *I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world. John 16:33*
 - b. *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.* 2 Timothy 3:12
- C. In that prison Peter experienced the power of God in some wonderful ways.
1. Peter experienced God's power in His _____ Vs 6
 - a. He was scheduled to be tried and executed the very next morning, but what is he doing? Peter was _____ in his prison cell like a little baby!

- b. *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. John 14:27*
- c. *Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7*
2. Peter experienced God's power in His _____ Vs 7a
- a. Peter was imprisoned surrounded by _____ soldiers, sleeping between two of them to whom he was chained.
- b. Into that mix we find an angel from the Lord appearing in prison in _____
1. The prison is _____ securely
 2. The guards are on duty and _____
 3. Nothing, and no one was able to _____ his entrance into the prison.
 4. The angel was on a mission to _____ to Peter
- c. God was with Peter at all times and in all places. It is just that now he made his presence known in a _____ way.
3. Peter experienced God's power in his _____ Vs 7b-11
- a. The angel _____ Peter from his sleep. Vs 7b
 - b. The angel commanded Peter to get up, and the chains **fell** off him. Vs 7c
 - c. The angel commanded Peter to get dressed and he did. Vs 8a
 - d. The angel commanded Peter to wrap himself in his cloak, and he did. Vs 8b
 - e. The angel lead Peter right _____ of prison without incident. Vs 9-10a
4. After doing what Peter could _____ do, the angel departed from him. V 10b
5. Peter suddenly realized he had had a _____ encounter with God. Vs 11
- III. Peter learned that God's power was experienced in His _____. Vs 12-17
- IV. Peter experienced God's power in His _____. Vs 18-19
- A. God created a diversion by _____ Herod's leadership. Vs 18
 - B. God protected Peter by moving on Herod to _____. Vs 19

Conclusion: I believe that Peter must have _____ on this miraculous event, and by so doing found the confidence and power he _____ for the moment in his service for God. What have we learned from our times of experiencing the power of God in our personal life?