

January 31st & February 1st, 2026

God's Power in Human Weakness *Standing Firm, Expecting Wonders*

Acts 12:1-19

As we proclaim the kingdom of God in a world of spiritual opposition, God calls us to trust in His sovereignty, pray earnestly, and believe that He is mighty to act beyond our strength and imagination.

God is Sovereign in a Hostile World

❖ God is Sovereign in everything, ruling over the times in which we live and the affairs of humanity.

↳ In His sovereignty, God allows suffering and death for His people.

Acts 12:1-3 “About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. ²He killed James the brother of John with the sword, ³and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread.”

❖ Our call is to establish His kingdom regardless of the opposition.

↳ We are ambassadors of God commissioned to advance His kingdom on earth as we make disciples.
Matthew 28:18-19a, “And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...’”

↳ Satan is at work against the people of God.

Ephesians 6:11-13 “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.”

↳ As we establish God's kingdom and face opposition, we are called to resist and overcome.

James 5:7 “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

❖ In His sovereignty, God allows evil, provides us with weapons, and empowers us to overcome.

↳ Faith and prayer

1 Peter 5:6 -9 “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, ⁷casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.”

God is Powerful in Adversity

❖ The Almighty rules over all things and is able to bring change where human strength fails.

↳ Peter's death was the only foreseeable outcome in the natural.

Acts 12:4a "...When he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him..."

Acts 12:4b "... Intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. "

Acts 12:5a "So Peter was kept in prison..."

Acts 12:6b "...Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison."

﴿ God delights to work on our behalf when we understand His sovereign power, seek His sovereign will, and pray in faith for His intervention.

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

- ◆ God is pleased to do the impossible when we respond in faith and prayer.

﴿ God sometimes says 'no', sometimes He says, 'not yet', and sometimes He answers at the very last moment.

Acts 12:6-10

- ◆ God's will for His people was for them to trust Him through prayer.
- ◆ God is always at work, even though we might not see His provision.
- ◆ God gave Peter the peace that surpasses all understanding and woke him up with a miracle.
- ◆ God's timing is deliberate and perfect.
- ◆ God is not limited by natural circumstances.
- ◆ God is not bound by our perspective.

God is Victorious in Our Weakness

❖ The power of the Lord manifested on behalf of His people surprises the Church, shocks the unbelievers, and exposes the defeat of Satan.

﴿ Peter and the church were surprised by the very answer for which they prayed.

Acts 12:11-15

- ◆ God's power and provision often exceed our expectations.
- ◆ God works in us despite our unbelief and even though we struggle to pray.
- ◆ Our call in needs and opposition is to trust God, pray earnestly, and to expect great things from God.

Mark 7:24-30

﴿ The enemies of God were shocked and silenced.

Acts 12:18 "Now when day came, there was no little disturbance among the soldiers over what had become of Peter."

- ◆ The guards were confounded, and Herod was enraged and yet powerless to explain what happened.

﴿ Satan's work was exposed and defeated.

Acts 12:19 "And after Herod searched for him and did not find him, he examined the sentries and ordered that they should be put to death. Then he went down from Judea to Caesarea and spent time there."

- ◆ By opposing the church, the wicked oppose God, but God works on behalf of His people, revealing that His kingdom cannot be stopped.

Endnotes:

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