

Week 34 – Acts 12:1-19

A Savior That Delivers Us

We are near the end of the first half of the book of Acts! We have seen the early church witness the power of God moving in miraculous ways throughout the book. Today we are looking at a Savior that delivers us.

Chapter 12 in the book of Acts starts with the death of James. This is a time of intense persecution for the church. Peter was sure to be next, but the church prayed earnestly for Him, and God delivered him.

How do you reconcile the fact that James died and Peter was delivered?

What does it mean to pray earnestly or fervently?

**What was the last thing that you earnestly prayed for?
...Did you see the outcome that you prayed for?**

Prayer starts with aligning ourselves with the unchanging will of God. It is boldly making our desires known to our Father who loves us. Second, prayer is also the means by which we fulfill one of God's unchanging purposes—that we would participate with our creator in His work of creation. We were created to participate with God in managing the creation, and to be a part of welcoming the new creation, the kingdom of God, in thought, word and deed. Third, we are called to pray as the church as a community of believers.

Does prayer make a difference? How?

Scriptures are clear that our prayers do make a difference to God. Yes, God is unchanging, He is immutable, and His purpose remains the same. Yet, He responds to our will and to our prayers. It's a paradox that we cannot wrap our heads around. How He accomplishes His purpose through His people, sometimes resulting in bewilderment. We don't know the circumstances beforehand that God will allow us to face in order to bring Him glory and grow us as His children. We do know that He uses trials and difficulty in our lives to show His grace and strength in our weakness, and to grow us closer to Him, and make us more and more like Jesus.

What situations do you need to be praying fervently for Jesus Christ, our Savior, to deliver you from?

Who in your life has been taken captive to sin or suffering that you need to be praying earnestly for?

Spend time praying as a group over each of these things.

Week 34

ACTS

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UPCOMING:

Thank you for joining us on our Planting Roots Journey. Last Sunday was (Re)Commitment Sunday, where we confirmed or modified Original Planting Roots commitments, or made brand new commitments for the very first time. If you missed the opportunity, it's not too late we still have (Re)Commitment Cards available on the communion tables.

Baptism Informational Meeting Want to get baptized on October 16th? Join us today following this service for a short info meeting.

TODAY'S VERSES:

Acts 12:1-19

Hebrews 13:8

Acts 2:41; 2:43; 4:1-23;
6:8-7:60

James 5:16

1 Peter 5:7

Hebrews 1:14

Acts 16:27

Proverbs 21:30

Malachi 3:6

Psalms 102:25-27

Psalms 33:11

James 1:17

Hebrews 13:8

Matthew 7:7-11

Luke 22:42-44

Genesis 1:26

Romans 8:15

