

# **Our Faith and Our Prayers**

“Living Large”, part 15, Insights from Acts 12:1-19  
Pastor Bob Johnson, October 1st, 2023

## **“Half time” Perspective**

(2 Peter 1:20-21, Hebrews 4:12, 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

## **Peter’s Prayerful Escape:**

(Acts 12:1-19)

## **Insights About Our Faith:**

**Our Faith is more about ...**

**our F \_\_\_\_\_ than our F \_\_\_\_\_ .**

(Ephesians 4:30, Luke 24, John 20, Daniel 3:17-18, Judges 7:9-11)

## **Insights About Our Prayers:**

**Our Praying is more about**

**our P \_\_\_\_\_ than our P \_\_\_\_\_ .**

(Luke 5:15-16)

**In our Praying, we ask for what we \_\_\_\_\_**

**and God decides what we \_\_\_\_\_ .**

(Acts 12:1-2, Acts 12:11-12)

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## **This Week's Discussion Guide**

Welcome to our fourth week of our ten week study and discussion based on our current Sunday series at GPC called, "Living Large". In this series, we are slowly unpacking the Book of Acts. Each week we will read and reflect on a passage and discuss ways we can apply what we reflect on to our daily lives. Our last week in this small group season will be the week of Sunday November 12th.

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships as part of our vision at GPC to raise up committed Christ followers in a healthy church community.

### **Getting Started:**

Each week, we typically start out with a few lighter questions to get us warmed up :).

In Acts 12, Peter (being arrested and then able to be set free) experienced a range of emotions ... speaking of our range of emotions, what are some emotions you felt since our last meeting?

When you are feeling more negative emotions, what do you do to help turn your emotions in a different direction?

In Acts 12, we read about Peter's experience behind bars. Speaking of being in 'confined spaces' ... when were you ever in a place that you felt was a bit confining? How did you get in it? How long were you in it? How did you get out of it?

If you ever got arrested ... and you were given your 'one phone call' (if they even do that) ... who would you call? Who do you think would call you if they ever got in trouble with the law? When have you ever had to say something a bit embarrassing to someone ????

In Acts 12, we read about how James and Peter were both arrested and one was killed and one was set free. We know that the church prayed for Peter's release and we are assuming that the church also prayed for James the same way.

Can you think of a time where you prayed for something specific and God answered your prayer the way you had hoped?

Can you think of a time where you prayed for something specific and God didn't answer your prayer the way you had hoped? Looking back, can you see any good come out of how God chose to answer your prayer?

### **Reviewing and Reflecting on last Sunday's Passage:**

Let's read the passage from last Sunday. (Acts 12:1-19)

After reading this chapter and looking back on our notes from Sunday, was there a particular thought, verse or comment that caught your attention, encouraged you, challenged you or raised a question for you?

## **Digging Deeper:**

1. We heard last Sunday that Biblical faith is “trusting God enough to do what He says”.

In John 4:43-54, we have the story of Jesus healing the son of a government official.

In what ways do you see this description of faith reflected in the official’s response to Jesus?

What other insights would you like to share from this passage?

Can you think of any examples in your life when you trusted God to do what He said?

What was the outcome of how the Holy Spirit worked in our life and through your life?

2. Throughout the Bible, God provides us with motivation to trust Him enough to do what He tells us to do.

What motivations do you find in the following passages to keep obeying and moving forward despite the fact that we can’t see the outcome?

1 Corinthians 15:58

Hebrews 12:1-3

2 Timothy 4:6-8

Which one of these passages is the most motivating to you?

3. The quality of communication in any relationship is directly related to the quality and depth of the relationship. The same is true in our relationship with God.

Nehemiah was a man whose relationship with God had quality and depth, which can be seen in his prayer life.

Let’s read Nehemiah 1:4-11 and share any insights we see pertaining to Nehemiah’s relationship and communication with God, and how it might impact or help us grow in our own prayer life.

## **Wrapping Up:**

What is an application from what we read or discussed together that you would like to practice in the coming days? Is there anything that came up from this week’s sermon or discussion that you would like prayer for? Is there anything else that you would like to express prayer for?