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Acts 12:12-19

God Answers Prayer

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A Supernatural Rescue

Acts 12:10-11 (NASB)
When they had passed the first and second guard, they came to the iron gate that leads into the city, which opened for them by itself; and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel departed from him. When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I know for sure that the Lord has sent forth His angel and **rescued** me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

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The Church Prays; Peter Shows Up

Acts 12:12-14 (NASB)
And when he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John who was also called Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying. When he knocked at the door of the gate, a servant-girl named Rhoda came to answer. When she recognized Peter's voice, because of her joy she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter was standing in front of the gate.

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Amazed At Answered Prayer

Acts 12:15, 16 (NASB)

They said to her, "You are out of your mind!" But she kept insisting that it was so. They kept saying, "It is his angel." But Peter continued knocking; and when they had opened the door, they saw him and were **amazed**.

- God can do more than we think (Eph. 3:20)
- "Amazed" is used in Luke/Acts to describe responses to supernatural events

The Lord Led Him Out

Acts 12:17 (NASB)

But motioning to them with his hand to be silent, he described to them how **the Lord had led him out of the prison**. And he said, "Report these things to James and the brethren." Then he left and went to another place.

- "led . . . out" is an echo of Exodus 3:8 LXX
- Acts 12:11 used "rescue" which is also found in Exodus 3:8 LXX. There is a clear Exodus theme in Luke/Acts

Herod Had Intended to Execute Peter; The Guards Get the Penalty

Acts 12:18, 19 (NASB)

Now when day came, there was no small disturbance among the soldiers as to what could have become of Peter. When Herod had searched for him and had not found him, he examined the guards and ordered that they be led away to execution. Then he went down from Judea to Caesarea and was spending time there.

Is the Will Free?

Romans 9:16 (NASB)

So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.

Galatians 3:10 (NASB)

For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM."

Does a Command Imply Ability?

Ezekiel 18:31 (NASB)

"Cast away from you all your transgressions which you have committed and **make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit!** For why will you die, O house of Israel?"

Ezekiel 36:26 (NASB)

"Moreover, **I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you;** and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." [See Ezekiel 11:19]

God Changes the Heart

Deuteronomy 10:16 (NASB)

So circumcise your heart, and stiffen your neck no longer.

Deuteronomy 30:6 (NASB)

Moreover the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live.
