

# Prayer

Page 3  
2/28/24

## Acts 12:1-19 – Peters is free

- James is killed by sword by Herod
- Herod saw that the Jews were happy
- He figured he would kill Peter as well
- He didn't do it because it was feast of unleavened bread – Leviticus 23:6
- This was a 7 day feast that followed after the Passover – Exodus 12:17 - 20
- Peter was in a guarded prison and had prisoners he was handcuffed to
- Christians got together and prayed v.5
- The angel came and broke Peter out of prison
- Peter then went to Mary, mother of John marks house
- They didn't believe him at first
- They believed him after Peter had told them what happened

## 1. Why does prayer feel like talking to thin air sometimes?

- God **delights** in our prayers – **Proverbs 15:8**
- This is the God of the universe; prayer **physically** does things – Jeremiah 29:12
- We have all felt like this before
- We live in a time and place where you get **immediate** results
- God answers prayers in **many** of ways – 1 John 5:14-16
- He **answers** them in His timing and His will
- What are some ways that God answers prayers
- “No, I love you too much”
- “Yes, but you will have to wait”
- “Yes, but not in the way you expected”
- “Yes, I thought you would never ask”
- “Yes, and here is more”
- It might feel like you're talking to thin **air** but your not – **Mark 11:24**
- It's the creator of the universe at the other end, ready to listen – Psalms 145:18

“In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words with out a heart.” – **John Bunyan**

# Prayer

Page 4  
2/28/24

## 2. How long Should you pray for?

- The Bible doesn't give us specifics on how **long** – 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- It's not a ritual so the amount of time doesn't matter
- One of the best ways to grow in prayer is to **pray**
- A lot of times we think we spend longer in prayer than we actually do
- Since one of the ways we grow our prayer life is by doing it
- Set **goals** and **challenge** yourself – 1 Timothy 2:1-2

## 3. Private prayer

- Jesus **broke** away from the busy life to pray – **Luke 5:16**
- There is power to having a **private** prayer life – Romans 8:26
- There is a relationship that is being built in a private prayer life
- This is something that we all **need**, each day
- Private prayer life should never be brought up in a **boastful** way – Matt. 6:5

## 4. Corporate prayer

- Prayer with others is something not really **talked** about
- All members make up the body of **Christ** – 1 Corinthians 12:27
- To catch a baseball, you need to use the whole body
- When the **Church** prays, they pray collectively – James 5:15-16
- When we say **Amen** we are saying essentially "I agree"

## 5. Is corporate or private prayer more important?

- There is only **1** type of prayer and that's talking to God
- There is not one that is better than the other, God **hears** them all
- The best prayer is the one that we do
- Prayer isn't to be **kept** in our back pocket and used in emergencies
- This is an everyday thing, so the best time to pray is always
- The best type of prayer comes from your **heart** to your creator