

INTRODUCTION

There are moments in life when everything seems to be moving in the right direction – your faith feels steady, your relationships are improving, and you can see God at work. That is the kind of moment the early church was experiencing when sudden opposition arose. King Herod began persecuting believers, putting James to death and imprisoning Peter. Peter was placed under heavy guard, with no human way of escape. What was once a season of growth quickly became a moment of pressure, reminding us that spiritual opposition often shows up in the middle of spiritual progress.

Many of us have experienced our own version of this. It’s when you start getting consistent, finally gaining traction, and then resistance comes. What feels like disruption is often the enemy’s attempt to discourage and distract you, making you question whether the progress you were making was even real. Peter’s situation also reflects the moments in our lives when we feel stuck. Whether it’s a relationship, a habit, or a circumstance that feels beyond your control, it can seem like there’s no way forward. This passage reminds us that what looks impossible to us is not impossible for God. While Peter was imprisoned, the church responded with fervent, consistent prayer showing us that access to God is never limited by our circumstances.

Suddenly, God moved. An angel appeared, Peter’s chains fell off, and what seemed impossible became a testimony. So, our challenge is this: will we be discouraged by what we see or will we keep praying, keep trusting, and keep believing God? The same God who caused Peter’s chains to fall is still at work today. What feels like your place of limitation may become your next testimony. Don’t give up!

GETTING STARTED

1. What’s something small that recently didn’t go as planned, but you had to just roll with it?
2. What’s your go-to response when you feel stressed (talk it out, pray, find a distraction, etc.)?

LET’S GET PERSONAL

1. Is there an area in your life right now that feels stuck or impossible to change? What makes it feel that way?
2. How do you typically respond in difficult seasons? Do you find yourself praying more or less when you’re stressed?
3. Peter was able to sleep in prison, trusting God with the outcome. What does your level of peace say about your trust in God right now?

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

1. How can you practice more consistent and intentional prayer (fervent prayer) in your daily routine?
2. As you close out this time, pray together and ask God to strengthen your trust in Him and give you the courage to keep praying even in the places where you feel stuck.
3. ***Want to dig deeper?*** Take a look at the following passages: Acts 12:1-7; Revelations 13:7-8; 2 Thessalonians 2:4; Isaiah 14:13-14; 1 Peter 5:8-8; Matthew 5:16; Acts 5:17-26.

RENEW YOUR MIND

*And behold, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter's side and woke him up, saying, "Get up quickly." And his chains fell off his hands. – **Acts 12:7***