

**HOPE IN GOD**

# The Church in Acts

- The Church explodes on Pentecost with the salvation of thousands of people (*Acts 2*)
- Peter leads more to Christ following the miraculous healing of a lame man (*Acts 3*)
- Fraud is discovered and God responds as the emerging church is purified (*Acts 5:1*)
- The apostles perform many miracles; are imprisoned; but delivered by an angel who encourages them to keep on preaching (*Acts 5*)
- Deacons are established to better care for the poor (*Acts 6*)

# The Church in Acts

- Stephen, a deacon, becomes the church's first martyr (*Acts 7*)
- The church expands to Samaria through the ministry of another deacon named Philip (*Acts 8*)
- The great persecutor of the church, Saul, is converted (*Acts 9*)
- The first gentiles Cornelius, and his household, receive Christ (*Acts 10*)
- The Gospel is spread, and in Antioch, they are first called Christians (*Acts 11*)

## **(Acts 12:1-3 NASB)**

*Now about that time Herod the king laid hands on some who belonged to the church in order to mistreat them. And he had James the brother of John put to death with a sword. When he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. Now it was during the days of Unleavened Bread.*

## **(Acts 12:4-5 NASB)**

*When he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the*

*Passover to bring him out before the people. So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God.*

## (Acts 12:6-7 NASB)

*On the very night when Herod was about to bring him forward, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and guards in front of the door were watching over the prison. 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 12:8-9 NASB)

*And the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so.*

*And he said\* to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." And he went out and continued to follow, and he did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision.*

## **(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."*



## **(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.*

## (Acts 12:15-17 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. 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.*

# James

- He was one of the original twelve (Mark 3:17)
- He was one of the three with Jesus when He healed Jairus' Daughter (Mark 5:37)
- He was one of the three with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration (Mark 9:2)
- He was one of the two "Sons of Thunder" who asked Jesus if they could call down fire down from heaven to destroy the Samaritans who didn't receive Jesus (Luke 9:54)
- He was one of the two disciples that asked to sit on Jesus' left and right. (Mark 10:35)

# James

- He was one of the four who questioned Jesus concerning when the temple would be destroyed (Mark 13:3)
- He was one of the three with Jesus when He prayed before His arrest (Mark 14:33)
- He was there when Jesus Ascended into heaven (Acts 1:13)
- He was there when Matthias was chosen to replace Judas (Acts 1:13)
- He was there the 14 years the church grew

## **Released by an Angel**

(Acts 5:18-20 NASB) *They laid hands on the apostles and put them in a public jail. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the gates of the prison, and taking them out he said, "Go, stand and speak to the people in the temple the whole message of this Life."*

## Point 1

**God's Kingdom is not set back by our disappointments.**

# Hope Deferred

(Proverbs 13:12 NASB) Hope deferred makes the heart sick, But desire fulfilled is a tree of life.

## Jesus' prophecy

(Mark 10:38-39 NASB) But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" 39 They said to Him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you shall drink; and you shall be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized."



# **The death of His godly ones**

(Psa 116:15 NASB) Precious in the sight of the LORD Is the death of His godly ones.

## Point 2

**God is bigger than our lack of faith.**

## **Help my unbelief**

(Mark 9:24 NASB) Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, "I do believe; help my unbelief."

## **Faith like a mustard seed**

(Luke 17:6 NASB) And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and be planted in the sea'; and it would obey you."

## Point 3

**God is still answers prayer.**

## **Prayer was being made**

(Acts 12:5 NASB) So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God.

## **Pray at all times**

(Eph 6:18 NASB) With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

## **Make requests to God**

(Phil 4:6-7 NASB) Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



## Point 4

**God is able to make things happen.**

## **Able to do more**

(Eph 3:20 NASB) Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,

## **God's power**

(Eph 3:7 NASB) of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power.

## **His power which works in me**

(Col 1:29 NASB) For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

# CONCLUSION