

WHEN THE CHURCH FERVENTLY CRIES OUT TO GOD . . .

So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God. . . . 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. . . . 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 (Acts 12:5, 7, 10 NASB).

- 1** With the loving, disciplinary acts of God growing more intense—hurricanes, wildfires, drought, and the threat of nuclear attack—pray that the church in America will become even more fervent in its cry for revival and spiritual awakening (Hebrews 12:5-7).
- 2** In order to pray effectively while seeking God for revival, pray that Christians in America will be willing to humble themselves before others, intercede fervently for one another, and walk in the kind of righteousness that comes from a healthy relationship with Jesus Christ (James 5:16).
- 3** When the church in America finds its members carrying the weight of extraordinary and difficult circumstances, pray that fellow believers will fervently intercede for one another just like the church in Jerusalem prayed for Peter when he was imprisoned (Acts 12:5).
- 8** In a day when we as believers desperately need the anointing and power of the Holy Spirit, pray that we will cling to the promise of Jesus when He said, "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?" (Luke 11:13).
- 9** As we continue learning how to pray according to God's will, pray that the joy of today's church will overflow as members stand on these words of Jesus: "Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full" (John 16:24).
- 10** As your church family purposes to "be anxious for nothing," pray that they will consistently take every concern to God in prayer. Pray that the "peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard [their] hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

. . . HE SENDS ANSWERS FROM HEAVEN

- 4** As the church prayed over Peter's imprisonment, God sent a delivering angel and much-needed light into Peter's dark cell (Acts 12:7). Pray that today's church will intercede for others with confidence, knowing that God is still able to send deliverance from heaven.
- 5** Pray that the church will realize with great joy that "every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow" (James 1:17).
- 6** Pray for Christians across the nation not to worry or fret about their basic needs, but to trust God as their provider by seeking "first His kingdom and His righteousness" (Matthew 6:31-33).
- 7** Pray that Christians who find themselves in the midst of conflict with other people will realize that as they pray and do not lose heart, God "will bring about justice for them quickly" (Luke 18:1, 8).

. . . HE CAUSES PEOPLE TO WAKE UP

- 11** Just as Peter was awakened by an angel while sleeping in prison, pray that the church in America will be awakened to see a fresh, clear view of Jesus and His plans for a church that desperately needs revival (Acts 12:7).
- 12** Just as Jesus awakened Lazarus from physical death, pray that those you know who are spiritually lost and dead in their sins will be awakened to new life in Christ (John 11:11-13).
- 13** Knowing that the night is almost gone and the day of Christ's appearing is closer than ever before, pray that the church in America will wake up and see that it must "lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light" (Romans 13:11-12).

14 Just as the prodigal son described in Luke 15:17 “came to his senses,” pray that prodigal youth all over this country will be awakened to see the futility of their wasteful living and will return to God and their families.

15 Pray that churches and Christian colleges controlled by and propagating a spirit of religion will be awakened to see that they are holding onto a “form of godliness” that denies the true power of Christ within the lives of their members (2 Timothy 3:5).

16 Pray that church and political leaders, educators, and parents who have departed from the Word of God will be awakened from the darkness of deception to see that “neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

17 Just as Samuel was awakened to hear the voice of God, pray that the church in America will be awakened to once more pursue the kind of love relationship with God where hearing His voice and receiving direction from Him is a part of its daily routine (1 Samuel 3:1-10).

... HE CAUSES CHAINS TO FALL OFF

18 Just as Peter’s chains of imprisonment fell off when he was awakened in his cell by an angel, pray that spiritual and physical chains of sin will fall off those around us who are living in bondage (Acts 12:7).

19 Just as the Corinthian Christians of Paul’s day were set free from various sins, pray that God will also add to your congregation those are being washed, sanctified, and justified “in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God” (1 Corinthians 6:11).

20 Pray that Christians across our nation who are being attacked for their faith will see God deliver them from their enemies. Pray that the verbal chains of abuse will fall away as they cling to Jesus and cry out to Him (2 Samuel 22:7, 18).

21 Pray that Christians will learn through the power of the Spirit to put to death “the deeds of the body” by which they are enslaved, breaking away from the chains of the flesh (Romans 8:13).

22 Pray that Christians throughout our nation will recognize and stand against “the false brethren” who try to entangle believers with the chains of vain and heretical philosophies (Galatians 2:4).

23 As the chains of darkness fall off, pray that believers will “make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts” and will “behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy” (Romans 13:13-14).

24 As individuals who are mockers, worldly-minded, and devoid of the Spirit try to cause divisions within the church, pray that their chains of deception will be exposed and that the church will instead be built up through the love of God (Jude 19-21).

... HE OPENS DOORS SUPERNATURALLY

25 Just as Peter, upon his deliverance from prison, saw an untouched iron gate open before him, pray that God supernaturally will open doors of service and ministry to those who are awakened by His reviving presence (Acts 12:10).

26 As pastors and church elders who have devoted themselves “to prayer and to the ministry of the word” lead their congregations to seek Jesus, pray that new doors of ministry and evangelism will open before them on a regular basis (Acts 6:4).

27 Since church members have spiritual gifts “that differ according to the grace given” to them, pray that every member of your church family will walk through the door of obedience by faithfully using his or her gifts in service to others (Romans 12:6).

28 As “ambassadors for Christ,” pray that God will open up doors through which we can broadly and effectively appeal to those who are unsaved to be reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5:20).

29 Pray that God will open the door that leads to the strengthening of the family in America. Pray that husbands will be empowered to love their wives “just as Christ also loved the church” and that wives will respect their husbands (Ephesians 5:25, 33).

30 Pray that the door to cultural change will open once again as revived Christians become the salt and light that is so desperately needed in seeing the people of America turn back to God and His holy ways (Matthew 5:13-14).

31 As we pursue God for revival and spiritual awakening, pray that once again He will open the door to world evangelization, calling to Himself faithful missionaries who will “make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19).