

The Power of Unceasing Prayer

Introduction: The early church was not without \_\_\_\_\_, but neither was it without \_\_\_\_\_ which brought about great \_\_\_\_\_.

- I. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Early Church (Acts 12:1-4)
- A. Herod's great grandfather was the one who killed the baby \_\_\_\_\_ in Bethlehem when the wise men did not return with news of Jesus.
  - B. "There never was a family more at enmity against God. As far as we know, not a single member of the Herod family ever really \_\_\_\_\_ to God" (McGee).
  - C. This Herod was guilty of killing James, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Apostle John.
  - D. James was in the inner circle amongst Christ's \_\_\_\_\_.
  - E. Herod's next target was \_\_\_\_\_.
  - F. He was seeing to it that Peter didn't \_\_\_\_\_ this time as he did earlier (Acts 5:19).
- II. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Early Church (Acts 12:5)
- A. The early church resorted to prayer as their means for \_\_\_\_\_.
  - B. They did not allow the difficulty of the situation to \_\_\_\_\_ them from praying.
  - C. They prayed without \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Thess. 5:17).
  - D. Prayer is what will bring the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (Jas. 5:16).
- III. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Early Church (Acts 12:6-25)
- A. Peter did not seem \_\_\_\_\_ to be in the prison right after James was martyred (Jn. 21:18).
  - B. The prayers of the local church were \_\_\_\_\_ (Jas. 4:2).
  - C. God is sovereign—He chose to \_\_\_\_\_ Peter, but not James—He has a plan for each of our lives.
  - D. The church was \_\_\_\_\_ together for prayer in Mark's mother's home.
  - E. There is power in corporate \_\_\_\_\_.
  - F. The church was \_\_\_\_\_ by God's quick response to their prayers.
  - G. Nothing will \_\_\_\_\_ your life as receiving answers to specific prayers.
  - H. Herod would not \_\_\_\_\_ himself and admit to God's deliverance.
  - I. Instead, he continued to give in to his \_\_\_\_\_.
  - J. God had to \_\_\_\_\_ him because he received glory as if he were a god.

Conclusion: "Why is it, both ministers and churches are asking, that the church of Jesus Christ is making such slow progress in the world today? Why does it make so little headway against sin, against unbelief, against error in all its forms? Why does it have so little victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil? Why is the average church member living on such a low plane of Christian living? Why does the Lord Jesus Christ get so little honor from the state of the church today? And again, God replies: Neglect of prayer. You have not, because you ask not" (R.A. Torrey).