

Acts 12:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

Analysis

The church's response to Peter's imprisonment—'prayer was made without ceasing'—demonstrates corporate intercession as primary spiritual warfare. The Greek 'ektenos' (earnestly/without ceasing) indicates intense, persistent prayer. This contrasts human helplessness with divine power accessed through united prayer.

Historical Context

During Passover (AD 44), Herod Agrippa I imprisoned Peter intending post-festival execution after beheading James (Acts 12:2). The church's prayer meeting at Mary's house (Acts 12:12) continued while Peter slept chained between soldiers.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does corporate prayer access divine power in seemingly impossible situations?

2. What role should sustained, united intercession play in facing opposition today?

Interlinear Text

ό	μὲν	οὖν	Πέτρος	ἐτηρεῖτο	ἐν	τῇ	φυλακῇ·
G3588	G3303	therefore	Peter	was kept	in	G3588	prison
		G3767	G4074	G5083	G1722		G5438
προσευχὴ	δὲ	ἥν	ἐκτενής	γινομένη	ὑπὸ	τῆς	
prayer	but	was	without ceasing	made	of	G3588	
G4335	G1161	G2258	G1618	G1096	G5259		
ἐκκλησίας	πρὸς	τὸν	θεὸν	ὑπὲρ	αὐτοῦ		
the church	unto	G3588	God	for	him		
G1577	G4314		G2316	G5228	G846		

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 12:26 (Parallel theme): And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

James 5:16 (Prayer): Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

2 Corinthians 1:11 (Prayer): Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (Prayer): Pray without ceasing.

Matthew 18:19 (Parallel theme): Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

Hebrews 13:3 (Parallel theme): Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.

Acts 12:12 (Prayer): And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.

Luke 18:1 (Prayer): And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;