



Week 15: A Praying Church

In Acts 12, the church faces pressure, loss, and uncertainty, yet their response reveals something powerful; prayer isn't their last resort, it's their first move. Even with imperfect faith, they cry out to God, and He moves in ways they couldn't control or predict. This chapter reminds us that prayer isn't a formula to get what we want, but a way to trust the One who is already at work. The invitation is to become people who pray first, trust deeply, and align our lives with God's purposes, no matter the outcome.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Acts 12:1-17. What stands out to you most in this passage, and how does it challenge or encourage your view of prayer?
2. When pressure hits your life, what tends to be your first response: prayer, planning, stress, or something else? What would it look like to make prayer your first response this week?
3. The early church prayed fervently, yet struggled to believe that God would actually answer. Where do you see that same tension in your own faith; believing God can, but wondering if He will?
4. Think about a prayer that hasn't been answered the way you hoped. How did that impact your trust in God? What does it look like to trust His purposes even when you don't understand the outcome?
5. What is one thing in your life right now that you've been trying to control, fix, or figure out on your own? What would it look like to bring that to God in honest prayer this week?
6. Of the three ideas from this message (pray first, trust God even with weak faith, align with His will), which one is God prompting you to focus on right now? What is one specific step you can take this week?