

## **On the wings of prayer series:**

### **New heights on the wings of prayer**

#### **Introduction:**

Certainly any discussion of prayer must include the idea of faith. In 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 19:11-12 When God showed Elijah that he was not in the Wind, Earthquake, or Fire Verse 12 says then a gentle whisper from God.

Oh to have God Almighty gently whisper to us. It can happen if you will with all your heart seek a deep relationship with God. Start listening to him every day and talking with him and thinking the whole matter over in your mind.

Elijah was a man of great trust in God. 1 Kings 18:41 just after Mount Carmel show down Elijah said I hear rain. What's so important about that? There wasn't a cloud in the sky. Church we need to be a people of such faith as this.

When we combine that type of faith with prayer Jesus says you can say to this mountain go jump in the sea and it will happen.

**Scripture:** Acts 12:1-19

#### **Lesson:**

##### **I. Peter was incarcerated.....put into jail.**

- He pushed passed the social bounds
- Wasn't politically correct.
- He offended some people
- \*His fate Acts 12:2 death!

##### **II. Church started praying about it.**

- Isaiah 56:7 "...for my house shall be called a house of prayer"
- Together
  - No phone tree (Not that that is bad)
  - But they came together
- Praying in everything Phil 4:6
  - Eph. 6:18 on all occasions
- Praying continually 1 Thess 5:17
  - Without ceasing
- Persistent Luke 18:1-5
- Devoted to Col. 4:2

##### **III. Peter's faith let him sleep**

- V 6 He sleep
  - Remember he is to die
  - \*This is the same guy who denied Christ 3 times and now He sleeps .....such faith
  - \*How can such faith come to a person?
    - By relationship with God
- Matt 9:29 Jesus makes the statement “according to your faith it will be done”
- The chains fell off him
  - Unbound
  - Angel lead him out of prison back to the gate of the city
  - Iron gate opened by itself
  - God opened what seemed impossible.

**-God doesn't always drop our chains off but you must understand that with Peter's faith he was unbound even when he had chains on him.**

- \*Then Peter goes to Mary's house
  - He knew where some Godly folks would be

#### **IV. Churches lack of faith**

- Servant girl Rhoda comes to the door and hears Peter's voice and runs to tell.
  - They said your out of your mind.
- Saw Peter ....Astonished
- Can you hear Jesus say “O ye of little faith”
- More personally I whisper “O me of little faith”**

#### **V. Prayer is powerful**

- The impossible is the perfect setting .....Gideon
  - Why? So God can be glorified
- Eph 3:20
- James 5:16 effective fervent prayer of the righteous availed much.
- Acts 4:31 Peter and John put into jail by Sanhedrin
  - For proclaiming Christ
  - \*When released they reported this to brethren
  - \*Great prayer to God by brethren V 23-30

**\*Place was shaken**

-I am a cessationist ....That is I believe that the miraculous gifts of the spirit for confirming the word died with the apostles in the first century. But brethren we must understand that the Holy Spirit didn't die in the first century and God can and does do miracles every day.

- We should be asking in faith for them.**

**Conclusion:**

**-Why do the Elders here think prayer is so important?**

**-Eph 3:21**

**-Can you hear the sound of rain? .....Open umbrella**

**\*As we stand and sing.**