

Effective Prayer

Acts 12

CALIFORNIA NEEDS JESUS.

And it will take Californians
praying fervently, giving
generously, and serving
courageously...

because it will take all of us to
reach our state for Christ.

*Now he who plants and he who
waters are one, and each will
receive his own reward according
to his own labor.*

1 Corinthians 3:8 (CSB)

*“Ask and it will be given to you;
seek and you will find; knock and
the door will be opened to you. For
everyone who asks receives; he
who seeks finds; and to him who
knocks, the door will be opened.*

Matthew 7:7-8

Prayer as Dictation

We just need to have enough faith for God to respond to our every desire. (Not)

Prayer into submission

God already has everything mapped out in advance. Prayer is simply my yielding of my will to His predetermined plan. (Not)

Prayer is Cooperation with God's Purpose.

Prayer is our teaming up with the power of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,
Ephesians 3:20

So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. Acts 12:5

“Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”

Matthew 18:19-20

Prayer in harmony and unity is effective.

So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. Acts 12:5

Prayer with intensity is effective.

[Jesus] And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Matthew 6:7

*The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. **Acts 12:6***

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. **Philippian 4:6-7***

*He who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. **Psalms 121:3-4***

Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!"

*he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists. **Acts 12:7***

I have posted watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night.

Isaiah 62:6

*Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. **Hebrews 13:2***

Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know without a doubt that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were anticipating."

Acts 12:11

In the morning, there was no small commotion among the soldiers as to what had become of Peter. After Herod had a thorough search

made for him and did not find him, he cross-examined the guards and ordered that they be executed.

Acts 12:18-19

***God does intervene
in the affairs of men.
He responds to the intense
petitions of His people.***

God answers prayer.

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him. 1 John 5:14-15

God answers prayer dramatically.

**God answers prayer dramatically,
but not very often.**

**God answers prayer dramatically,
but usually just in quiet ways
of strengthening His people that
many never see.**

*That if you confess with your
mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe
in your heart that God raised him
from the dead, you will be saved.
For it is with your heart that you
believe and are justified, and it is
with your mouth that you confess
and are saved. **Romans 10:9-10***