

PRAYER WITH POWER

"Prayer was made earnestly of the church unto God for him." Acts 12:5.

This text is a good example of the prayer life of the Christians and church members of early days, and the result of their praying. It is a good example for Christians of today to follow. Note the following things about this text.

1. This prayer was proper.

"Prayer was made." It is always right for Christians to pray. They should pray at all times and about all things. It was natural on this occasion for these Christians to pray. Prayer should be the desire of all Christians. It should be the habit of all Christians. It is right to pray in hours of success as well as in times of trouble and failure.

2. This prayer was to the right source.

"Unto God." To whom can we go? These Christians prayed unto God in an hour of trouble. The Lord waits to hear His people pray. He is the God of grace and power. He has all power and will use it for His people. There is no other person to whom prayer can be made. All other sources of prayer avail nothing. Pray unto God, our Father.

3. This prayer was by the right people.

"Of the church." The people who prayed on this occasion were Christians. They knew the Lord. They believed in His power. They were members of the church. On previous occasions they had gone to the mercy seat and were not turned away. Their hope was in God and they received His power through prayer. This world is in need of Christians now who can go to the throne of God and bring down His power and connect it with the problems of man.

4. This prayer was in the right spirit.

"Earnestly." These church members prayed earnestly. They prayed without ceasing. They were sincere. Their prayers were eager and anxious. They agonized before the Lord. The Holy Spirit prompted the people with the right desire and purpose. The Lord will not turn such hearts away without granting the right answer. Pray earnestly, anxiously, and continuously.

5. This prayer was for the right person.

"For him." Peter was in prison. He had been placed there for preaching Christ. He was bound to two soldiers. He was in trouble, thinking death might be his lot as it had come to James. Only the Lord could help. The Christians prayed unto God definitely for the deliverance of Peter from prison and the hands of Herod. It is right to pray for people who are in trouble. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

6. This prayer was rewarded with the right answer.

The Lord sent His angel of mercy to the prison and he found Peter sleeping between two soldiers. The angel aroused Peter, loosed him, assisted him in dressing, and led him out of prison and out of the hands of Herod and to the house of prayer. The Lord answers prayer. He hears His people when they pray.

Learn the secret of prayer that has power with God and engage in it earnestly and continuously for His glory and His people.