

The Unexpected Power of Prayer

March 28, 2021

Text: Acts 12:1-17

Facing Intense Discouragement

- The discouragement of “_____” prayer.
- What did they do with _____?
- Facing the unanswerable “_____?”

The Happy Grace of God’s Unexpected Answer

- Unaware and lacking _____.
- Laugh at our _____ and rejoice in God’s _____.

The Power of Christ Prevails Over the Powers of this World

- The world always seems to have _____.
- The One we pray to is _____.

Life Enrichment

What about today's teaching challenged, disturbed, or encouraged you?

- Who was the most surprising person to ever show up at your door? When was the last time you had to pinch yourself to see if you were dreaming?
- What is the most discouraging situation you have ever faced? How did it affect your relationship with God and your ability to pray?
- When you are faced with “unanswerable why’s,” how do you usually respond? Do you want a solution or answers or are you looking for something else?
- How does the early church handle their discouragement with James’ martyrdom and Peter’s imprisonment? What does their response teach us?
- How did Peter’s unawareness and the church’s lack of expectation affect God’s response to their prayers?
- Why do you think Luke injects the humorous situation with Rhoda at this point? How does this “comic relief” help us deal with our insecurities and insufficiencies?
- What are some of the ways the world system appears to hold an advantage over the church? Why is the world system’s advantage not real?
- Read Romans 8:26. How does the Holy Spirit help us when we are uncertain, weak, and lacking expectation in prayer? How will you rely on the Spirit’s prayer assistance this week?