

You're Dreaming

Text: [Acts 12:1-25](#)

Introduction:

I have had some strange dreams in my time. I remember dreaming that I was floating above my house and could see through the roof like it wasn't there. I could see the floorplan of the house and what was going on in each room. There I was sleeping in my bed.

I dreamed about Jesus coming in the clouds. I've had scary dreams and dreams that were so funny that I woke up laughing, but then I could not remember what was so funny. One of those times was since I was married and Mary woke up, too, and asked me, "What's so funny?" I turned to her and said, "I don't know." And went back to sleep.

There are times in my life that I wished I was dreaming and other times that I thought I was dreaming! That was the case with Peter in Acts 12.

Read: [Acts 12:1-11](#)

It was a horrible time. Some may have thought they were having a nightmare! Stephen had been stoned to death, many were being persecuted, now James was killed and Peter was thrown in Jail. So, they prayed and they prayed and they prayed some more.

1. Prayer Works In Our Sleep

[Acts 12:5](#)

Fascinating: Peter Was Sound Asleep While The Church Was Wide Awake Praying For Him

- I can't imagine sleeping knowing that I would be the next Christian to die. Peter did!
- Peter must have been a hard worker; he slept while Jesus prayed in Gethsemane, the night Jesus was betrayed. [Matthew 26:40-41](#)
- Sometimes when worrisome things happen, people react differently: I've waited for some who were in surgery and family members talked, other read, others paced and some slept.

We Don't Have To Be Awake For Prayers To Be Heard

- They won't be our own prayers, but we can be confident that they will be heard.
- I am so thankful that people pray. We would be in a worse world of trouble if nobody prayed.
- Maybe that's why Peter slept, he had confidence in God and in the prayers of the saints.

[Philippians 4:6](#) Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

- Maybe Peter having previously experienced jail time knew that God was in charge anyway:

[1 Peter 4:12-14](#) Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

2. There Is A Time To Wake Up!

That Angel Didn't Carry Peter Out

- The angel stood by Peter
- There was a light shining in the prison (remember this is at night time)
- The angel struck Peter on the side and raised him up saying, "Arise quickly!"
- The chains fell off his hands.
- The angel said to him, "Put on your clothes and sandals and wrap your cloak around you and follow me!"

That Angel Led The Way Temporarily

- When Peter was out of danger, the angel left him.
- [v. 11](#) THEN Peter came to himself. I like the NIV in [v. 12](#) "When this had dawned on him..."
- Do you ever get the impression that Peter was thick-headed?
- Minor point here: God loves thick-headed people, too! So, some of us don't have to worry ☺

Now Is The Time To Wake Up Church; Our Lives Must Represent Christ:

[Romans 13:11-12](#) And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to **awake** out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. **Therefore** let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.

[1 Cor. 15:33-34](#) Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits." **Awake** to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.

3. Include Each Other In Our Dreams

First: Peter Headed For The Church

- How did Peter know where the church was?
- There was no sign, there was no building, no parking lot, no pews, no steeple!
- Jesus died for the church! Jesus died for people! Not sticks and stones.

Next: The Church Woke Up!

- For what were they praying? Peter: Why were they surprised when Peter stood at their door?
- [v. 17](#) "he declared to them how **the Lord** had brought him out of prison." "Spread the word"
- "He departed and went to another place." (Was this to another group of Christians?)
- Point: God DOES answer prayers and people need to know it!
- WE need to know it! We need to believe it! We need to act upon it!

[1 Thessalonians 5:17](#) Pray without ceasing,

Conclusion:

[1 Thessalonians 5:6-10](#) Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.