**The Power of a Prayer Meeting**

(Acts 12:5 KJV)

*Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.*

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or centuries the prayer meeting was a central part of church life, an indispensable part of the weekly program. Yet today few churches have a prayer meeting. If you’re too busy to pray then you’re busier than God wants you to be. There’s nothing beyond the reach of prayer except that which is outside the will of God.

What was once a major emphasis of church activities; has been kicked to the sidelines and ignored by most members. Furthermore many prayer meetings today involve little prayer. Even in meetings set aside for prayer, other activities typically crowd in leaving little time for adoration, confession, intercession and thanksgiving to the Lord. But! The Saint Peter Baptist Church knew the power of an effective prayer meeting.

There are times when the dark clouds of evil surround the Church and the future looks dark and dreary. That is how it must have appeared that day when Peter was arrested. James the apostle has recently been murdered by Herod Agrippa I. The crowd loved it, and it seemed the same fate awaited Peter. God watched and noted what Herod was doing to his people.

This evil man was the grandson of Herod the Great, who ordered the massacre of children at Bethlehem. He was the nephew of Herod Antipas who murdered John the Baptist. The Herod family was a devious ruthless family. They were despised by the Jews. They were from the tribe of the Edomites from the south east region of Palestine.

Herod Agrippa I began persecuting the church in an attempt to win favour with the Jews. The Orthodox Jews relentlessly despised those who were called Christians. In those days he began by arresting believers, and even beheaded James. Pleased at his growing popularity, he seized Peter with the same intention to execute him.

Peter is now in prison awaiting execution. He is heavily guarded by sixteen soldiers, four at a time, chained to two guards, with two more watching the doors. Although Herod appeared in masterful control, Peter had something greater. Peter had the Saint Peter Baptist Church, praying for him in a prayer meeting.

We need to pray earnestly for God’s divine intervention into the affairs of men. There are many examples of God’s divine intervention in Scripture, as a direct result of prayer:

* Moses prayed and God spared Israel from judgment;
* Joshua prayed and God caused the sun to stand still;
* Hannah prayed and God gave her a baby boy;
* Solomon prayed and God gave him wisdom;
* Elijah prayed and God sent fire down from heaven;
* Jonah prayed and God brought him out of the belly of the whale;
* Peter prayed and God raised Dorcas from the dead;
* Paul and Silas prayed until the jail house rocked open;
* The thief on the cross prayed and God gave him eternal life;