

Pivotal Praying (Week 7)

Praying When You're Under Pressure



Acts 12:5-17



1. Pressure is **amoral**. It is neither good or bad

2. It is the
great
revealer.



2. It is the great revealer.

A. It reveals where we place our trust

2. It is the great revealer.

A. It reveals where we place our trust

B. It reveals what we're *made of*

2. It is the great revealer.

A. It reveals where we place our trust

B. It reveals what we're made of

C. It reveals who we *belong to*



3. Our faith
must be placed
in God, our
Great Provider.

4. How do we pray in the pivotal moment?

A. We must make sure our work deepens our trust in God, not distract us from trusting Him.

Acts 12:6-17 (NLT)

The night before Peter was to be placed on trial, he was asleep, fastened with two chains between two soldiers. Others stood guard at the prison gate. **7** Suddenly, there was a bright light in the cell, and an angel of the Lord stood before Peter. The angel struck him on the side to awaken him and said, “Quick! Get up!” And the chains fell off his wrists. **8** Then the angel told him, “Get dressed and put on your sandals.” And he did. “Now put on your coat and follow me,” the angel ordered.

Acts 12:6-17 (NLT)

9 So Peter left the cell, following the angel. But all the time he thought it was a vision. He didn't realize it was actually happening. **10** They passed the first and second guard posts and came to the iron gate leading to the city, and this opened for them all by itself. So they passed through and started walking down the street, and then the angel suddenly left him. **11** Peter finally came to his senses. "It's really true!" he said.

Acts 12:6-17 (NLT)

“The Lord has sent his angel and saved me from Herod and from what the Jewish leaders had planned to do to me!” **12** When he realized this, he went to the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark, where many were gathered for prayer. **13** He knocked at the door in the gate, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to open it. **14** When she recognized Peter’s voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the door, she ran back inside and told everyone, “Peter is standing at the door!”

Acts 12:6-17 (NLT)

15 “You’re out of your mind!” they said. When she insisted, they decided, “It must be his angel.”

16 Meanwhile, Peter continued knocking. When they finally opened the door and saw him, they were amazed. **17** He motioned for them to quiet down and told them how the Lord had led him out of prison. “Tell James and the other brothers what happened,” he said. And then he went to another place. †

5. Rhoda's prayer group (Acts 12) failed in their **experience**, their **expectation**, and their **explanation**.



6. Peter's prayer group (Acts 4) began by **worshiping** God, **refusing** to cave in and panic, and were **willing** to die for the faith they lived for.



7. Even though we're under pressure most of the time, God **never is.**

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