



HOUSE OF PRAYER

GOD'S POWER UNLEASHED

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Part 5: The Power of Earnest Intercession

Acts 12:1-17

**Our united and earnest intercession for others
releases God's power into their lives.**

Context of Acts 12 ...

*"So Peter was kept in prison, **but** the church was earnestly praying for him." Acts 12:5*

*"When we have nothing but prayer, we have everything.
When we have everything but no prayer, we have nothing." Jim Cymbala*

I. God Responds to our Earnest Intercession

Intercession is us standing in the gap between God and the one we love and asking for God to bring His presence and power into their lives (they may not be talking to God at all).

"Know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself; the Lord will hear when I call to him." Psalm 4:3

- A. God sends something for the person they would not have otherwise (Acts 12:6-7, 11).

- B. God wakes people up to Himself (Acts 12:11).

- C. God frees people from their chains (Acts 12:7).

II. Praying God's Word for Those Perishing (Luke 13:5, 15:1-12; John 3:16-21).

"Talking to men for God is a great thing but talking to God for men is greater still." E.M. Bounds, *"E.M. Bounds on Prayer"*

- A. Draw them to Jesus with holy desire (John 4:10-14, 6:35-44, 7:37-38).
- B. Reveal Jesus as the greatest treasure they can possess and give them the joy of repentance (Matthew 13:44-46, John 10:10).
- C. Tear down demonic strongholds that blind them to Jesus (2 Corinthians 4:4-6, 10:3-5; Ephesians 6:10-18).
- D. Convict them of their sin and need of a Savior and show them forgiveness in Jesus Christ (John 16:7-11, Acts 2:37-39, 10:3).
- E. Free them from the deceitful, destructive, enslaving power of their sin (John 8:31-36, Colossians 1:13-14).

"Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons, but they are helpless against our prayers." J. Sidlow Baxter, *"21 Days of Breakthrough Prayer"*

Discussion Questions:



What has been your instinct when you're worried, fearful, or pressured? What do you see in the example of the early church's response to pressure (Acts 4:23-31, 12:1-17)?



What has been your experience interceding for others? Have you been more encouraged or discouraged? Is there anything you are learning that might encourage you?



Do you pray regularly for people you know, who are estranged from God? Are you willing to ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to pray regularly for these people while looking for ways to love them?

Memory Verse:

Know that the Lord has set apart His faithful servant for Himself; the Lord hears when I call to Him. Psalm 4:3