

Hope is Real God Provides in the Middle of Crisis

Acts 12:6-17

6 On the very night when Herod was about to bring him forward, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and guards in front of the door were watching over the prison. 7 And behold, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter's side and woke him up, saying, "Get up quickly." And his chains fell off his hands. 8 And the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." 9 And he went out and continued to follow, and he did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. 10 When they had passed the first and second guard, they came to the iron gate that leads into the city, which opened for them by itself; and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel departed from him. 11 When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I know for sure that the Lord has sent forth His angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting." 12 And when he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John who was also called Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying. 13 When he knocked at the door of the gate, a servant-girl named Rhoda came to answer. 14 When she recognized Peter's voice, because of her joy she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter was standing in front of the gate. 15 They said to her, "You are out of your mind!" But she kept insisting that it was so. They kept saying, "It is his angel." 16 But Peter continued knocking; and when they had opened the door, they saw him and were amazed. 17 But motioning to them with his hand to be silent, he described to them how the Lord had led him out of the prison. And he said, "Report these things to James and the brethren." Then he left and went to another place.

Circumstances out of our control often lead us into areas of stress and struggle. These are areas that we don't want to be. It is important for us to realize that especially in these times we can place our trust fully on God. He is always interested in us. We are never alone. Just trust Him, follow instructions, and celebrate all that God accomplishes in your life.

1. Sometimes life is out of control.

Acts 12:1-2, 2 Corinthians 11:23-27

2. God always has a plan of action.

Hebrews 1:14, 2 Chronicles 16:9, Psalm 34:7, Acts 5:19-20, Daniel 6:22, Acts 16:25-26

3. We can prepare for God's response.

Acts 12:5, James 5:16, Isaiah 65:24, Psalm 91:15