

Confidence in Him

- A. The church in the time of Christ experienced phenomenal growth (Acts 2:38-41). Why?
1. Christ was among them and cured all their diseases (Mt. 4:23-24; Mk. 8:6).
 2. Cures were immediate.
 3. He was unstoppable.
 4. Nothing was out of His reach.
 - a. Demons cast out.
 - b. Lepers cured.
 - c. Even the dead brought back to life. (Jn. 11).
- B. When they found a way to crucify Him and put an end to Him the following events took place.
1. The church went into hiding (Behind closed doors) (Jn. 20:19).
 2. The disciples were sad and confused (Lk. 24:13-25).
 3. This was explained as being a part of God's plan to accomplish His purpose of redemption Christ told the disciples "ought not Christ to suffer these things to come into His glory" Lk. 24:25-26).
 4. Then persecution began as James was seized and put to death (Acts 12:1-4).
 5. Peter was also seized and held in the inner prison and things looked dim Acts 12:3-5).
 - a. The church rallied and returned to their roots, where they gathered in homes and prayed earnestly together for Peter (Acts 12:5).
 6. God intervened and showed them the way through the difficult times. An angel was dispatched to do what human hands could not do.
- C. What can we learn?
1. Jesus reminded the disciples to look at what it said in the scriptures (Lk. 24:25-27).
 2. The church was forced to revert back to their basic roots and prayed earnestly (Acts 12:5).
 3. God intervened and did what the church could not do (set Peter free Acts 12).
 4. Jesus counseled the early church leaders to be at peace and reminded them that He would always be with them (Jn. 20:19; Mt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5).
 5. One of the leaders, that was in great peril (Peter) was actually sleeping even though he was to be executed the next day (Acts 12).
 6. We can still trust in Him today to help us through difficult times (Prov. 14:26-27; 1 Jn. 5:14-15).