

Transforming Peter
Week 15 outline
Acts 12:1-17
September 6, 2020

But Peter Kept On Knocking

"But Peter continued knocking, and when they opened, they saw him and were amazed."

I. Persecution, Prayer, and the Power of God

A. The Persecution of the Church (vs 1-4)

1. Violent hands laid by King Herod
2. James (the brother John) killed by the sword
3. Pleasing to the Jews
4. Peter arrested and imprisoned

PETER AND THE EARLY CHURCH WORKED HARD TO STAY CONNECTED WITH ONE ANOTHER, GROW MATURE IN THEIR YOUNG FAITH, AND STAY COURAGEOUS THROUGH ADVERSITY, ALL WHILE FACING IMPRISONMENT, MARTYRDOM AND DISPERSION.

B. The Prayer of Believers (vs 5,12)

1. *"but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church"* vs 5
-intent, fervent, strenuous prayer
2. *"he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John, where many were gathered together and were praying."* vs 12

C. The Power of God

1. The power of God always casts light into the darkness that surrounds us
And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. -vs 7a
2. The power of God gives us a wake up call when it is time to move
He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." -vs 7b
3. The power of God can break the chains that hold us back
And the chains fell off his hands. -vs 7b
4. The power of God provides instruction with tangible action to follow him by faith
And the angel said to him, "Dress yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." -vs 8
5. The power of God opens doors for us to walk through
they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord," -vs 10
6. The power of God gives us His assurance of who He is and works in unexpected ways.
"Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting." -vs 11

II. Peter, Rhoda, and the Church

A. Rhoda and her Joy -vs 14-15

- recognized the sound of Peter's voice
- ran to tell the news!
- "but she kept insisting"

B. ...But Peter kept on Knocking! vs 16

PETER AND THE EARLY CHURCH FACED IMPRISONMENT, MARTYRDOM AND DISPERSION. THEY FACED THE FEAR OF DEATH, THE FEELING OF UNCERTAINTY, AND THE REALITY OF DISCONNECTION FROM ONE ANOTHER ... SOUND FAMILIAR?

III. ...WE JUST GOTTA KEEP KNOCKING

A. A Life that was Predictable, Manageable, and Comfortable...

(boring, prideful, and lazy?)

1. Now Afraid
2. Now Unsure
3. Now Disconnected

B. Going Small and Growing Big

1. There's a Sunday morning barrier at RbC
2. Folks are more isolated and fearful than ever
3. Personal faith is healthy, BUT Solitary faith is not.

OUR MODEL NEEDS TO ADAPT
OUR MISSION MUST CONTINUE
OUR VISION HAS TO GROW

C. PIONEERING FORWARD

1. **RbC LIVE:** our very own RbC on-line Campus
 - live-streamed
 - hosted
 - real time
2. **RbC ONE days**
 - intentional, smaller sized on-ramps
 - equip members of the body of Christ to take their next step of faith
3. **RbC LIFEgroups**
 - life together in Christ
 - circles are better than rows
 - a lifeline that provides a way forward, not back

We have set the tremendous goal of launching thirty LIFEgroups this fall with a wide variety of shapes and sizes...

PERHAPS:

- RbC LIVE watch-parties on Sunday Mornings
- Tuesday night back porch conversations
- Play and prays at the neighborhood playground
- 1 Peter series study

Each LIFEgroup will have its own flavor,
but all have one common ingredient... life in Christ together.

1. Would you Pray...
Pray with me like crazy- that not one person would be left behind
2. Would you Invest...
Host a group or join a group
3. Would you let us Know...
Tell us what you're planning so we can better help others connect the dots.

MAY JESUS CONTINUE TO GROW US TO BE HIS CHURCH:
GENUINELY CONNECTED IN COMMUNITY
INCREASINGLY MATURE IN OUR FAITH
STRONGLY COURAGEOUS THROUGH LIFE