

God's Word Advances Despite Persecution Everyday Supernatural Living – Part 20

Life Church St. Louis – August 4, 2024
Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Pray Daily for your Five Friends Focus

2 Timothy 3:12 (ESV) Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

Matthew 5:10–12a (ESV) “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven ...

John 15:20 (ESV) Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.

1. Trust God's _____ in Persecution

Acts 12:1–2 (ESV) About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword,

Acts 12:3–4 (ESV) and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people.

Acts 12:5 (ESV) So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church

Acts 12:6–7 (ESV) Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, “Get up quickly.” And the chains fell off his hands.

2. God's Plan is Greater Than Any _____

Acts 12:11 (ESV) When Peter came to himself, he said, “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.”

Acts 12:12 (ESV) When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying.

Acts 12:18–19 (ESV) Now when day came, there was no little disturbance among the soldiers over what had become of Peter. And after Herod searched for him and did not find him, he examined the sentries and ordered that they should be put to death.

3. Believe in God's Victory Over _____

Acts 12:20-21 (ESV) Now Herod was angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon, and they came to him with one accord, and ... they asked for peace ... On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them.

Acts 12:22–23 (ESV) And the people were shouting, “The voice of a god, and not of a man!” Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.

Acts 12:24 (ESV) But the word of God increased and multiplied.

God's Word Advances Despite Persecution Study Guide

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Intro. Why is there persecution of Christians?

According to 2 Timothy 3:12, who will be persecuted?

What should a believer's response be to persecution (Matthew 5:10-12)?

In what ways is enduring persecution part of being a follower of Jesus (John 15:20)?

1A. How do you think the execution of the apostle James affected the church (Acts 12:1-2)?

1B. What does Acts 12:3-4 tell us about the character of King Herod (Acts 12:3-4)?

1C. How did the church respond to the news of Peter's impending trial and execution (Acts 12:5)?

1D. What does Acts 2:6-7 tell us about the power of one angel (Acts 12:6-7)?

1E. What should be our reaction to the increased persecution against believers and churches in America?

2A. What does Peter's rescue tell us about the power of corporate earnest prayer (Acts 12:11)?

2B. Why do you think the people in the prayer meeting couldn't believe Peter was at the door (Acts 12:12f)?

2C. What does Acts 12:18-19 tell us about the character of King Herod?

2D. Why must we put our trust in God and not in leaders of the church or the government?

3A. What is the relationship between being angry and murder (Acts 12:20-21)?

3B. Why did God bring swift judgement on King Herod (Acts 12:22-23)?

3C. How did the persecution and death of some of the believers impact the growth of the church (Acts 12:24)?

3D. How can you grow in putting your trust in God and His plan rather than in a human leader?