

GOD DOES MORE THAN
YOU EXPECT, Part 2

March 19, 2017

**It's not how BIG is
your faith...**

**It's not how BIG is your
faith...**

***it's HOW BIG IS YOUR
GOD!***

Ephesians 3:20-21 (NKJV)

**²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,
²¹ to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever.
Amen.**

Ephesians 3:20 The PASSION

²⁰ Never doubt God's mighty power to work in you and accomplish all this. He will achieve infinitely more than your greatest request, your most unbelievable dream, and exceed your wildest imagination! He will outdo them all, for his miraculous power constantly energizes you.

Ephesians 3:21 The PASSION

²¹ Now we offer up to God all the glorious praise that rises from every church in every generation through Jesus Christ—and all that will yet be manifest through time and eternity. Amen

I. CONSTANT ATTACK

Acts 12:1-3 (NKJV)

¹ Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass (*GK: INJURE AND EXASPERATE*) some from the church. ² Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword. ³ And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

Acts 12:4 (NKJV)

4 So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover.

“Herod the king” is Herod Agrippa I, grandson of Herod the Great (who attempted to put the Lord Jesus to death at the time of His birth).



**He was delivered to a group of
16 soldiers. Four soldiers
were guards to Peter during
the 4 parts of the day.**

He was delivered to a group of 16 soldiers. Four soldiers were guards to Peter during the 4 parts of the day.

Prisoners who were chained between guards had no human hope of escaping

II. CONSTANT PRAYER

Acts 12:5-6 (NKJV)

⁵ Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. ⁶ And when Herod was about to bring him out,

Acts 12:5-6 (NKJV)

that night *Peter was sleeping*, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison.

***Peter is the picture of peace
and trust in the Lord***

**Peter is the picture of peace and trust
in the Lord...**

**Peter was a sold-out
servant of God—
the SAME GOD WHO CAN
DO ABOVE ALL WE CAN
ASK OR THINK**

III. CONSTANT ANSWERS

Acts 12:7-8a (NKJV)

7 Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off his hands. **8 Then the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and tie on your sandals"; and so he did**

Acts 12:8b-11 (NKJV)

And he said to him, "Put on your garment and follow me."

⁹ So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision.

Acts 12:8b-11 (NKJV)

¹⁰ When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.

Acts 12:8b-11 (NKJV)

¹¹ And when Peter had come to himself, he said, "Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people."

IV. CONSTANT FAMILY

Acts 12:12-15 (NKJV)

¹² So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying. ¹³ And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a girl named Rhoda came to answer. ¹⁴ When she recognized Peter's voice,

Acts 12:12-15 (NKJV)

because of her gladness she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter stood before the gate. ¹⁵ But they said to her, "*You are beside yourself!*" Yet she kept insisting that it was so. So they said, "It is his angel."

Matthew 21:22 (NKJV)

**And whatever things you
ask in prayer, believing,
you will receive.**

Acts 12:16-17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Now Peter continued knocking; and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. ¹⁷ But motioning to them with his hand to keep silent, he declared to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, "Go, tell these things to James and to the brethren." And he departed and went to another place

V. GOD CONSTANTLY MOVES!

1 Corinthians 14:33 (NKJV)

33 For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

Acts 12:18-19 (NKJV)

18 Then, as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the soldiers about what had become of Peter. 19 But when Herod had searched for him and not found him, he examined the guards and commanded that they should be put to death. And he went down from Judea to Caesarea, and stayed there

Acts 12:24 (NKJV)

24 But the word of God grew and multiplied.

***God does MORE than
you can expect!***