



Expecting the Miraculous as a Cessationist

Acts 12 • August 16th, 2026

BIG IDEA

Unchain yourself from faithless prayers by looking to the God of miracles.

OUTLINE

God Answers...

1. ...Fervent Prayers (v. 1–5)
2. ...Bold Prayers (v. 6–11)
3. ...Halt-Hearted Prayers (v. 12–17)

CALL TO RESPOND

1. Recognize your complete dependence on God as you come to Him in fervent prayer
2. Consider God's power and past faithfulness as you come to Him with bold, even miraculous prayers
3. Expect God to answer your prayers as your loving Father, and rejoice that He has an even better plan when the answer is "no"
4. Remember that even when we are faithless in our prayers, God remains faithful and does far greater than what we could ask or think

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. In Acts 12:1-5, what makes the situation facing Peter and the church seem humanly impossible? How does the phrase "but prayer" change the way we view our circumstances?
2. What do you think it means to pray "fervently?"
3. Why is it so difficult for Christians to pray boldly for miraculous things?
4. How can we reconcile praying expectantly with the fact that God does not always answer our prayers in the way we want?
5. What does Acts 12 teach us about the relationship between prayer and the advance of the gospel?

DIRECT APPLICATION

1. Look at your prayers over the past week. How many were actually fervent, bold, expectant prayers?
2. Recount a time when God answered one of your prayers specifically and in a "miraculous" way. What is one "impossible" situation in your life that you have stopped praying boldly about?
3. Come up with one specific prayer per person and write them down. Pray through each of them together, and commit to praying for each other throughout the next week.