

## Emmanuel Prayer List - November 2021

### Canada and Around the Globe

- Pray for our governments; federal, provincial/territorial, and local.
- May God guide new Members of the Federal Government in developing new laws and policy.
- We pray for our Brothers and Sisters in Countries who cannot pray, read the bible, or meet to worship openly. They face imprisonment, torture and even death for their faith in Christ.
- We remember those who are still getting sick with Covid, and the heroes who take care of the people who are ill.
- Also pray for other churches in the County: Some might be struggling due to lack of funds, and other churches see their congregants not returning.
- Pray for God's provision for our missionaries, as they may be in countries that have limited resources.

### Study Continued (from inside pages)

7. In verse 9 Peter had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening. He thought he was dreaming. However, he did as he was told. Obedience doesn't need understanding, we just need to trust. The Bible is full of instruction on how to live our lives. When we are in what seems to be an unchangeable situation, how important do you think it is to simply be faithful? (Read 1 Peter 1:6-9)

8. In the case of Peter, he was rescued. However, God doesn't always rescue. I'm sure that the church was earnestly praying for James also, but he ended up being killed. This brings us back to question one: What do we put our hope in? Peter's hope was in Christ regardless of the outcome of his situation. His hope was in his eternal future, and that his life in the present was in God's hands. He wasn't being fatalistic, he could say, as Paul did in Philippians 1:21, "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain."  
Can you say that?

There is no greater peace than to know that your life is completely in His hands.  
There is no greater joy than to know that you are in the centre of His will.  
How can we strive to be that way?

9. Read Acts 12:9-18. These verses weren't covered in the sermon. Think of yourself as one of the people in the house praying for Peter, when Rhoda comes in all excited, saying that Peter is at the door. How would you have responded?

Rhoda was so excited, she didn't even let Peter in. Imagine the conversation when Peter did come into the house. How do you think this would have impacted your faith?

10. What can you do to improve your prayer life?



## A SERIES ON BECOMING DYNAMIC FOLLOWERS OF JESUS

Based on the life of one of His followers: Simon Peter

1. From fisherman to a fisher of men Luke 5:1-11
2. Living by Faith not by Fear Matthew 14:22-33
3. Dealing With Doubt John 6:60-71
4. What happens when you fall Luke 22:31-34; 54-62
5. Restored & Commissioned John 21:15-17
6. Strength in the face of opposition Acts 4:1-13
7. Overcoming prejudice Acts 10:1-16
8. Living in freedom and peace Acts 12:1-19

## Living in freedom and peace Acts 12:1-19

What have you put your hope in?

### TRUST v.1-5

v.1-5 Peter's situation:

Prisons we find ourselves in, because of...

The actions of others:

Our circumstances: (eg. John 9:1-3)

Of our own making: (eg. Achan - Joshua 7:21; King David 2 Sam 11:1-4)

When we find ourselves in a "prison" we need to...

### PRAY v.5

v.5 So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was \_\_\_\_\_

Praying through =

v.6 The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was \_\_\_\_\_

Philippians 4:6-7

### FOLLOW v.6-9

Angels:

Hebrews 1:14

Obedience doesn't need understanding - \_\_\_\_\_

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

1. What kind of things, and people, do we put our hope in?

2. Read Acts 12:1-4. What do you think is the attitude of Christians in Jerusalem at this time?

It is now about 44AD, 12 years after the crucifixion of Jesus. There has been quite considerable persecution of Christians (started by Saul). How do you think they are coping with it. What do you think is the level of their faith through all of this?

3. Peter had seen his good friend James, killed. Now he was in prison also. He probably expected his trial to be a sham, and then he would be executed. In addition, Peter had been told that he was going to die for his faith, though he may not have fully understood Jesus' words (Read John 21:18-19). Put yourself in his shoes, or chains! What is going through your head?

Peter was sleeping! Why do you think he could have such peace?

4. We can find ourselves in virtual prisons. Situations that we are unable to change in our lives. Sometimes this can be because of the actions of others, like Peter, who hadn't done anything wrong.

For some, it is simply their circumstances, like the man in John 9, who was born blind.

For others, they are in prisons of their own making, perhaps a sin that they don't seem to be able to stop doing, or a habit that they can't change.

Have you found yourself in one of these situations (prisons)?

What was it like and what did you do?

It is the 'dark times' in our lives, the 'prison' times, that really show our faith for what it is. In his sermon, Peter said that we need to fully submit our lives to Christ. What does that mean, spiritually and practically?

5. Read Philippians 4:6-7. In these verses God promises us peace in the midst of anxious situations. What three things in these verses are necessary to receive this kind of peace? Explain each one.

Why is it called a peace that passes, or transcends, understanding?

6. Read Acts 12:5-9. God specialises in things that seem to be unchangeable. Charles Spurgeon once said, "I do not know how to explain it; I cannot tell how it is, but I believe angels have a lot to do with the business of this world." What do you think? (Also read Hebrews 1:14). Do you think that angels have been involved in your life?