

**The C.E.U's of Prayer**  
**Theme: Praying and Actually Believing it Works!**  
**Acts 12:1-17**

**Introduction:** Insight from Romans 15:4  
Illustration from Basketball  
Ineffective Ruts

**I. Acts 12 provides a "Continuing Education Unit" in Prayer**

- A. Is your prayer life a Routine Duty or a Real Benefit?
- B. Prayer manifests Dependence on God at 2 levels
  - 1. As a lifestyle: Daily Dependence
  - 2. As an urgent necessary: Helpless Dependence

**II. Acts 12:1-17: "written for our learning"**

**A. The Set Up 17:1-2**

- 1. What time? (1<sup>st</sup> Century Church) Chapter 11
  - ✓ *Gentiles received the Word 1-18*
  - ✓ *Great Persecution spread the Gospel 19-21*
  - ✓ *Growth explosion 21, 24*
  - ✓ *Barnabas sent to encourage and instruct 22-24*
  - ✓ *Paul's last year of training 25-26*
  - ✓ *Disciples were first called "Christians" 26b*
  - ✓ *Gentile benevolence to Jewish believers 27-29*
  - ✓ *First mention of "elders" 29*
- 2. What time? (21<sup>st</sup> Century Church)
  - ✓ *Re-emphasis on "Gospel-centered living"*
  - ✓ *De-emphasis on Denominationalism*
  - ✓ *Re-emphasis on Expository Teaching*
  - ✓ *De-emphasis on Secondary issues*
  - ✓ *Christian influence declining in USA*
  - ✓ *Christian influence surging worldwide*

- 3. What time? (Wheelersburg Baptist)
  - ✓ *Growth among young families*
  - ✓ *Quality "mature" believers to mentor*
  - ✓ *Financial stability with far greater potential*
  - ✓ *Strong Biblical teaching with cautious praise*
  - ✓ *New ministries developing*
  - ✓ *Aging Missionaries*
  - ✓ *More workers needed*

**B. The Situation 17:3-4**

- 1. Impossible: Imprisoned and Doomed
- 2. What is your situation?

**C. The Solution: Pray like Crazy! 5**

**D. The Result of Praying like Crazy 6-10**

**E. The Responses 11-17a**

- 1. Peter's response: Give God glory
- 2. Church's response: Doubt God's power

**F. The Summary: 17b-18**

**III. Acts 12:1-17 Conclusion**

- 1. Two Questions:

Why did James die and Peter live? Acts 4:23

How could Peter sleep and the Church miss it? John 21:18

- 2. Two Applications:

We all face great opportunities divinely masked as impossible situations.

If there is a solution, it requires Divine intervention.

