

Sermon Discussion Guide:

Peter's Testimony

Sunday, October 2, 2022

Scripture: **Acts 12:12-19**

Series: **The Spirit & The Church**

OVERVIEW

Everyone loves a good story, especially stories that are true. Moreover, there is real power when we share our story as a part of God's larger story. In Acts 12, we observe that Peter wants to testify about how the Lord had miraculously freed him from prison, reminding us that our testimony is a personal account of who God is and what He has done. It should be a declaration of God's good works in our life. In joy and gratitude, we are called to share our testimony with others. **The Christian's testimony honors God, strengthens the church, and invites the world.**

CORROBORATING TEXTS

John 7:5; 1 Corinthians 15:7; Galatians 2:9; Psalm 71:15-18; Revelation 12:11; 1 John 5:11-12; Luke 8:39; 1 Peter 3:15; John 15:26-27; Psalm 40:1-3

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In Acts 12 (v. 5, 12) we learn that that church was praying for Peter's release. Yet it seems they were not expecting their prayers to be answered in such a miraculous way. Are there times when your faith is weak and you pray with a lack of confidence that God will listen and answer your prayer? If so, why do you think that is?
2. Can you think of a time when God surprised you by answering a specific prayer? Can you think of a time when God blessed you by not giving you what you had prayed for?
3. Have you had opportunities in the past to share your Christian testimony? If so, how receptive was the person who heard your testimony? What were the main aspects of your testimony that you tried to emphasize?
4. Have you passed up opportunities to share your Christian testimony? If so, what do you think keeps you from sharing your testimony? Do you feel your story is worth telling?
5. Have you heard others share their testimony, but it was more about themselves than about Jesus? In what ways can this distort the gospel message?
6. As part of our testimony, it is important to share how God has delivered us. With this in mind, in what specific ways has God delivered you?
7. In 1 Peter 3:15, we are called to give reason for the hope that we have. In other words, we are called to share our testimony. In what ways can your testimony give hope to others?
8. Pastor Joe offered four pieces of advice for sharing your testimony. In his second point, he recommended having a passage. Joe's passage is Psalm 40:1-3. What is your passage?