

February 28, 2010

You Are Out Of Your Mind!

In Acts 12 we are told that Herod murdered James, the brother of John. When Herod saw his actions pleased the Jewish religious leaders, he arrested Peter and put him in prison. Herod's intent was to execute Peter. Shifts of sixteen soldiers were given the responsibility to guard Peter.

Peter's death seemed to be a forgone conclusion. Vs.5 says, "but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God." The Lord intervened and sent His angel to rescue Peter. Peter himself did not believe what was happening to him. Vs.9 says, "he did know that what was being done by the angel was real, but he thought he was seeing a vision."

When reality dawned on Peter he went to the home of Mark's mother. Many church members were gathered there and praying. Peter knocked on the door. Rhoda, a servant-girl, came to answer. "Who's there?" "Me, Peter!". When she recognized Peter's voice she ran inside the house and announced that Peter was standing in front of the gate. But the praying "unbelieving" believers said to Rhoda, "You are out of your mind!" She insisted it was Peter but they refused to believe. Finally they gave in, opened the door and "SURPRISE!!!"

Amazing, isn't it? Some pray and do so out of duty but never expect an answer. Others pray because they need the emotional comfort that comes from knowing that they have spoken to God but they do not really expect Him to answer. Here is a group who were praying ("What else can we do?") but not believing. In the midst of praying the answer came knocking at their door but they refused to believe their "you-are-out-of-your-mind" God had answered.

Do you pray? Why do you pray? When you pray, do you really expect God to answer your prayers? What about when you get an answer and the devil whispers to you, "Ah, that's pure coincidence!", what do you do? What do you do when the devil says to you, "That's no answer from God. That is the result of your planning and hard work"? Are you one of those "you-are-out-of-your-mind" Christians when it comes to prayer and answers to prayer?