

Living in the Spirit (Part V)

Review:

The strange promise - **John 7:37-39**

The world we live in – **I John 4:19, (II Corinthians 4:4)**

NLT - “We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the power and control of the evil one.” - (1 John 5:19)

Lessons from Acts 12:1-19

- I. **Acts 12:2** - “He had the apostle James (John’s brother) killed with the sword”
 - a. Jesus chose James as well as the rest. James was one of the “inner-ring.” We know very little of his story, or of his ministry. There is a strong tradition that he travelled to Spain and had come home on this visit to Jerusalem.
 - b. James was killed AD 44, just 14 years after the birth of the church. In his death, the guard who was given charge of James was so impressed with James faith that he converted to Christianity and chose to die with him.
 - c. Even though James had one of the shortest ministries of all the apostles, that doesn’t mean he wasn’t important. God’s value system is different from ours!

- II. **Acts 12:6** – “The night before Peter was to be placed on trial (...bring him forward), Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and guards in front of the door were watching over the prison.”
 - a. “...sleeping” – What happened to Peter, the one who caved in to a servant girl? James was killed so Peter had every reason to believe that his time had come!
 - b. **Galatians 5:22-23** - The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace...
 - c. This is an impossible situation, but nothing is impossible to God! **Luke 1:37**

III. This story is a metaphor for a person who is stuck in a difficulty, either their own sin or addiction or in a situation that is happening to them that is not of their own choosing. Either way, God is reminding you that He is bigger than any situation. We can look to Him for His help.

a. Psalm 71:20

b. Psalm 86:13

c. Psalm 139:15