





Peter Is Free

Acts 12:1–17

Introduction

Peter learned an important lesson about trusting God the night he walked to Jesus on the water. Many years later Peter learned another important lesson about trusting God.

Peter Is in Prison

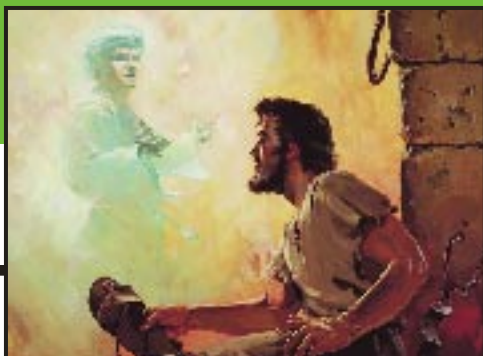
Jesus had gone back to heaven to live with God the Father. Peter and the other disciples were going many places to tell people about Jesus. Some people were glad to hear and trust Jesus. Some people did not love God,

and they did not want to hear about Jesus or how they could go to heaven.

They did not love God nor want anyone preaching about Jesus. Some of these who did not love Jesus had Peter put into prison.

Peter's friends found out that he was in prison. How sad they were. They knew what to do to help Peter. They would ask God to help Peter get out of prison. They went to one of their homes and began to pray that God would keep Peter safe and send him back to them.





Peter Is Free (cont.)

God Sends an Angel

God heard their prayers. He sent an angel to Peter's prison. Peter was sound asleep; he knew God would take care of him.

The angel woke Peter up. "Get up," said the angel. The chains that were locked around Peter's ankles fell right off when he stood up. The angel told Peter to put on his coat and shoes and follow him.

Peter quickly dressed and followed the angel right past the guards who had been told to watch him.

All the time Peter did not really know what was going on; he thought he was having a dream. He followed the angel right out through the gate! They walked down the street, and suddenly the angel disappeared.

Peter then knew this was not a dream; what was happening to him was real! God had sent His angel to rescue him from prison.





Peter Is Free (cont.)

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Peter hurried off to Mary's house and knocked at the door. Inside the house, the people who loved Jesus were praying for Peter. Peter kept knocking. A little girl named Rhoda came to answer the door. Rhoda knew who Peter was. She had heard him tell about Jesus. Rhoda was so excited to hear Peter's voice that she did not even open the door! She ran to tell the people, "Peter is at the door! Peter is at the door!"

"How can that be?" they said. They were certain that Rhoda was hearing things.

"He's here, he's here," Rhoda kept telling them. "I really heard his voice; he is at the door. We prayed that God would take care of him and set him free, and God has answered our prayers. Come! Come! Come with me and see."

They followed Rhoda to the door and sure enough there was Peter still standing there

knocking. They opened the door. When they saw Peter, they were really surprised.

Peter told them to be quiet; when all his friends were inside, Peter told them what had happened to him that night, how God had taken care of him and sent the angel to set him free.

Peter's friends loved and cared for him and asked God to set him free from prison. And God answered their prayer and set Peter free. Our God can do anything. He is a wonderful God. ■

Ask these questions:

1. Who was in prison? *Peter*
2. What were Peter's friends doing? *praying*
3. Who freed Peter from prison? *an angel sent from God*
4. Who answered the door when Peter knocked? *Rhoda*