

**Faith Under Fire**  
**Text: Acts 12:1-19**  
**February 24, 2024**

**Big Idea: When faith is under fire, your confidence must be in Jesus alone.**

**Context is key!**

**Question #1 (Context)**

*Ask Yourself: What is going on in the text?*

- a) What is the setting and what is happening?
- b) Who are the main characters?
- c) Are there any words/phrases that are repeated?

**Question #2 (Context)**

*Ask Yourself: What does the text say about God and about me?*

- a) Is God saying or showing something about Himself? If so, what?
- b) Do the words in the text predict, prophesy or picture something about Jesus? If so, what?
- c) Is God saying or showing something about us? If so, what?
- d) How does the text point to my need for Jesus? How?

**Question #3 (Context)**

*Ask Yourself: What are the principles, commands or promises given?*

- a) What is the overall theme of the text?
- b) Does the passage include any promise from God? If so, what?

When my faith is under fire, I must...

**Point 1: PRAY FERVENTLY: “God will hear it!” (vv. 1-5)**

*Question: Faith’s first response is to turn to God in fervent prayer. Will you pray fervently?*

**Question #4**

- a) **Rd. vv. 1-5:** Describe Peter’s situation.
- b) When the believers heard the news about Peter, what was their first response?
- c) What is your first response when your faith is under fire? Why that?
- d) What is your response saying about where/what your confidence is ultimately in?

**Question #5**

- a) What does the term “earnest prayer” mean (v. 5)?
- b) What are we declaring when we don’t pray? What are we declaring when we do?
- c) What has God given us to help us cultivate a fervent prayer life? Use Scripture to support.
- d) Spend time as a group praying for more fervent prayer!

**Point 2: BELIEVE UNSWERVINGLY: “God can do it!” (vv. 6-16)**

*Question: God is sovereign and can do the impossible. Do you truly believe it?*

**Question #6**

- a) **Rd. vv. 6-11:** How did God answer the prayers of His people? Describe what happened as a group.
- b) **Now stop and think about this:** This really happened! Spend a few moments in adoration to God.
- c) Explain how the work of the angel points to Jesus and His gospel work today.

**Question #7**

- a) **Rd. vv. 12-16:** What happens when Peter gets to Mark’s mother’s house?
- b) What did the believer’s’ response reveal about their faith?
- c) When you pray, does it mean God will always answer in your time and way? Why or why not?
- d) Where are you most often tempted to pray the “right things” but not truly believe God can answer?
- e) Spend time sharing what “impossible” areas you need to bring before the Lord; and pray for them from God’s promises in Scripture. (Remember: Context is key!)

**Point 3: TESTIFY CONSTANTLY: “God has done it!” (vv. 17-19)**

*Question: Testifying to God’s work fuels the faith of God’s people. Will you testify?*

**Question #8**

- a) **Rd vv. 17-19:** How does the church respond when they see Peter and hear how God answer prayer?
- b) What does Peter tell the church to do? Why would he emphasize this as a priority?
- c) **With Unbelievers:** Where is a constant gospel testimony lacking in your life?
- d) **With Believers:** How does testifying to God’s work fuel the faith of other believers?
- e) Spend time testifying to 2-3 God at work stories with your group. These can be of how you’ve seen God answer prayer both in and outside of the church.

**Prayer Application**

Spend time as a group/in accountability in prayer...

- a) **REVERENCE** before God: Jesus, You are the God who\_\_\_\_\_.
- b) **HUMILITY** before God: Jesus, I confess i) My lack of fervent prayer in\_\_\_\_\_. ii) My unbelief that You can\_\_\_\_\_ iii) My lack of testifying to Your work with\_\_\_\_\_.
- c) **THANKSGIVING:** Jesus, thank You for answering prayer about\_\_\_\_\_.
- d) **SUPPLICATION** to God: Jesus, I ask for i) Greater priority fervency in prayer. ii) Increased faith that You can\_\_\_\_\_. iii) A more constant testimony/gospel witness with\_\_\_\_\_.

*Memory Verse:*

*“For nothing will be impossible with God.”-Luke 1:37*

