EPH. 6:18

INTRODUCTION: Prayer is part of our Christian armor. There are different kinds of prayer. We've all been invited to enter God's holiest presence, **HEB. 4:16**. God has promised to hear and answer us when we pray according to His will, **1 JOHN 5:14-15**. Through prayer, we generate power to accomplish God's purposes. **JAMES 5:16 (AMP)**

UNITED PRAYER – ACTS 12

1. Problems. **ACTS 12:1-5a**
   A. Attacks. James was martyred by Herod to the delight of the Jews. Peter was arrested and placed on death row. Herod persecuted the church for political gain.
   B. Apprehension. Herod attacked the leadership and the concern was he would go after the members. To them, the future of the church was in jeopardy.
   C. Adversaries. More than Herod or the Jews, it was Satan and his evil forces that hated the church and set out to destroy it.
      - Satan hasn't changed or matured. He's the same today!

2. Prayer. **ACTS 12:5b**
   A. "But" is a small word that makes a big difference. "It looks hopeless, but;" "Peter is incarcerated, but;" Herod is after the church, but." But the church prayed to God for him without ceasing.
   B. Their prayers were fervent (with spiritual intensity, hot burning, and aggressive) and focused (to God, for Peter).
   C. Jesus at the rock in the garden.

3. Power. **ACTS 12:6-11**
   A. The power of angelic intervention got Peter out, but couldn't get him in the church. **ACTS 12:12-17**
   B. Jews believed your guardian angel assumed your form after death.
   C. Power that created no small stir. **ACTS 12:18-19** Herod couldn't kill Peter, so he killed the guards.

CONCLUSION:
The early church understood the value of united prayer. When challenged, they came together in united prayer and invoked God's miracle working power that enabled them to overcome the attacks of their adversaries.

OTHER EXAMPLES

Jehoshaphat called for united prayer, **2 CHRON. 20**. Peter and John, **ACTS 4** persecution, prayer, power.