

ACTS

CONTINUING THE WORK OF JESUS ➤

Acts 12

I KNOW IT'S IMPORTANT

I failed again

I have tried

Unconvinced it can be better, for me

Our emotional response to PRAYER

Chapter 12

- 1 It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. 2 He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. 3 When he saw that this met with approval among the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Festival of Unleavened Bread. 4 After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover.

The normal tension of Christian Life

Huge gains for the kingdom in tension with radical
challenge and personal cost

My understanding of prayer

- 1 A vision of the depth of our connection with God

Deeply connected into God

John 17

¹⁸ As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.

²⁰ “I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

My understanding of prayer

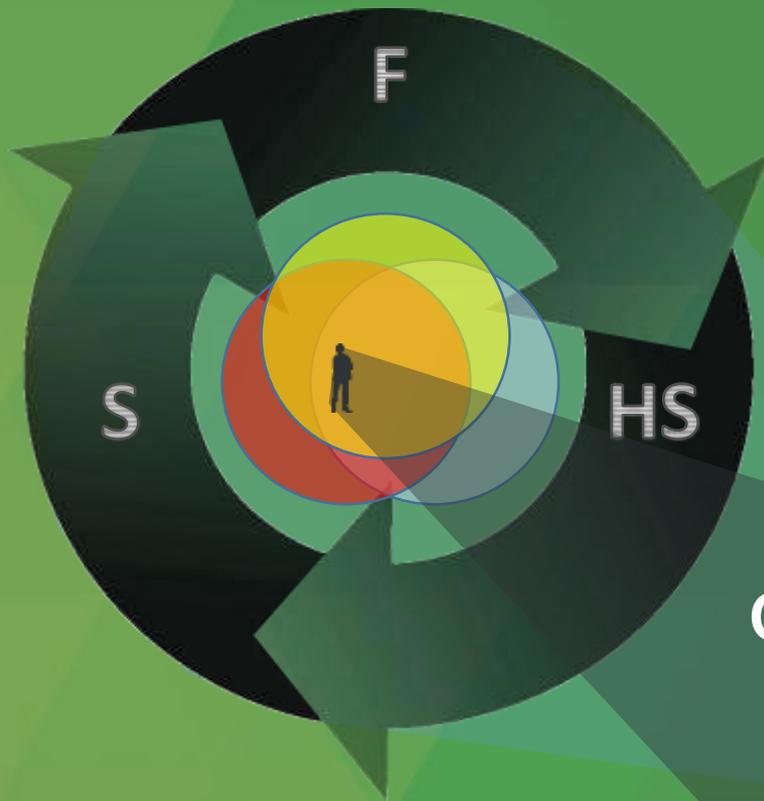
- 1 A vision of the depth of our connection with God
- 2 The theology of spiritual conversation

Union with God

1 Corinthians 6

- ¹⁷ ... the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him. ¹⁸ Flee immorality. Every *other* sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

We are united with God



ONENE
SS

1 Cor 6
1 Cor 2:9-16
Romans 6
Romans 8:9-11
John 17



Erikson explains it like **THIS...**

- Not only is our union with Christ brought about by the Holy Spirit; it's a union of spirits... ... our union with Christ is vital. His life actually flows into ours, renewing our inner nature and imparting spiritual strength.
- *(Christian theology 2001)*

Union with God

1 Corinthians 2

- ¹⁰ For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who among men knows the *thoughts* of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the *thoughts* of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

Union with God

1 Corinthians 2

- ¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, ¹³ which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*.

My understanding of prayer

- 1 A vision of the depth of our connection with God
- 2 The theology of spiritual conversation
- 3 A life of intimacy in prayer **REQUIRES** sacrifice and hardship

LUKE 9 JESUS SAYS...

- ²³ And He was saying to *them* all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. ²⁴ For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.

Philippians 3

PAUL SAYS...

- ⁷ But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ,⁹ and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ,

My understanding of prayer

- 1 A vision of the depth of our connection with God
- 2 The theology of spiritual conversation
- 3 A life of intimacy in prayer **REQUIRES** sacrifice and hardship

**Every form of prayer rests on this
VISION-THEOLOGY-PRACTICE**

Acts 12

- ⁵ So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God.

Acts 12

- ⁶ On the very night when Herod was about to 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. ⁷ And behold, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter's side and woke him up, saying, "Get up quickly."

Acts 12

- And his chains fell off his hands. ⁸ And the angel said to him, “Gird yourself and put on your sandals.” And he did so. And he *said to him, “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.” ⁹ And he went out and continued to follow, and he did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision.

Acts 12

- ¹⁰ When they had passed the first and second guard, they came to the iron gate that leads into the city, which opened for them by itself; and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel departed from him. ¹¹ When Peter came to himself, he said, “Now I know for sure that the Lord has sent forth His angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.”

Acts 12

- ¹² And when he realized *this*, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John who was also called Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying. ¹³ When he knocked at the door of the gate, a servant-girl named Rhoda came to answer. ¹⁴ When she recognized Peter's voice, because of her joy she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter was standing in front of the gate.

Acts 12

- ¹⁵ They said to her, “You are out of your mind!” But she kept insisting that it was so. They kept saying, “It is his angel.” ¹⁶ But Peter continued knocking; and when they had opened *the door*, they saw him and were amazed. ¹⁷ But motioning to them with his hand to be silent, he described to them how the Lord had led him out of the prison. And he said, “Report these things to James and the brethren.” Then he left and went to another place.

Are you ready for
the adventure of
prayer?