

Love/Passion for Christ  
Power to Live at the Next Level  
Acts 12.1-10

A few years ago while preaching in London, I began to teach from Acts 12. The idea that Peter was launched beyond limitations to walk in freedom and lead others to do the same intrigued me. At the same time I had grown tired of the same old messages and same old clichés: “Your blessing is on the way - it's just around the corner.” And New Year’s Eve was sickening with standard clichés like: “the Lord is going to bless you in 2002.”

Along with this I was seeing a phenomenon in the church that alarmed me. People were so gravitating to what I have come to call Tylenol preaching and then the really mature folks in America to Advil preaching. But the body of Christ was weak and in need of an inoculation or antibiotic preaching.

This kind of preaching, if accepted, would catapult the church back into a genuine Pentecostal experience that would empower us to be catalysts or agents of change! The power of Pentecost would become more than shout-power but change-the-world-power!

**1. When we receive the gospel we are at the Next Level!**

- Peter walked into the prison already living at the next level
- Peter walked in already a threat to the enemy!
- Peter walked in with power to walk out!

**2. When we receive Christ we already have power to set others free!**

- When the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost it was not just about the disciples’ speaking in tongues and feeling powerful.
- They immediately broke through the language and social barriers.
- They immediately addressed poverty and by the time we reach Chapter 6, they had developed a regional feeding program for all of their widows!
- The enemy hated Peter because he had power to change!
- The enemy surrounded him with giants in an effort to intimidate him!
- Ultimately the enemy released greater faith in Peter!

*At some point we have to trust God for finances, family, health but beyond that to touch the world for His glory!*

### **3. When we receive Christ it changes our future!**

- There is a responsibility that comes with enduring trouble!
- Peter was given power to break free from his own chains!
- Peter was given power to walk past his past demons.
- Peter was given the power to re-script "his movie."

*Rhoda went from being a nameless extra to co-starring with Peter! You better change who gets to talk in your movie! You need someone who will believe that you are who God says you are.*