
CHAIN



> *Acts 12:7* <

Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists.

The early church leaders, like Paul and Peter, were no strangers to chains. From the earliest days of the first church they found themselves locked away because of their faith. This something that, if you're in a country that has laws against religious persecution, you're not as familiar with. I would bet that most of you reading this devotion live in a place where you can practice your faith openly and free of any legal ramifications. And so while we're not in immediate danger of being locked up for our faith, most of us find ourselves in chains everyday. These are not chains you or others can see or feel but they exist nonetheless. These are chains that hold us back and cause us to not be able to live and do what all we're called to.

These chains look different for each of us. For some it's pride; they care more about being right than they care about learning from others. For others it's a sense of failure and loneliness that hangs around their necks. Even others find themselves weighed down by people's expectations, believing that they must be whatever it is that everyone else wants them to be. Have you ever felt similar chains? This is why I love this passage in the Book of Acts. Peter is imprisoned. He is bound and chained. Then, out of nowhere, an angel appears, tells him to get up, and the chains are gone!

God is calling you and me to get up! We have too much to do in this life to be bound by the chains that are holding us back. God does not want you to be chained up and kept from living as He made you to be. "Get up quickly" and watch your chains fall off!

Go and Do

Over the next day or two, have some conversations with close friends and mentors. Ask them what they think are your greatest strengths and weaknesses. Use these conversations to help you know what chains are holding you back as well as what strengths you can build upon.
