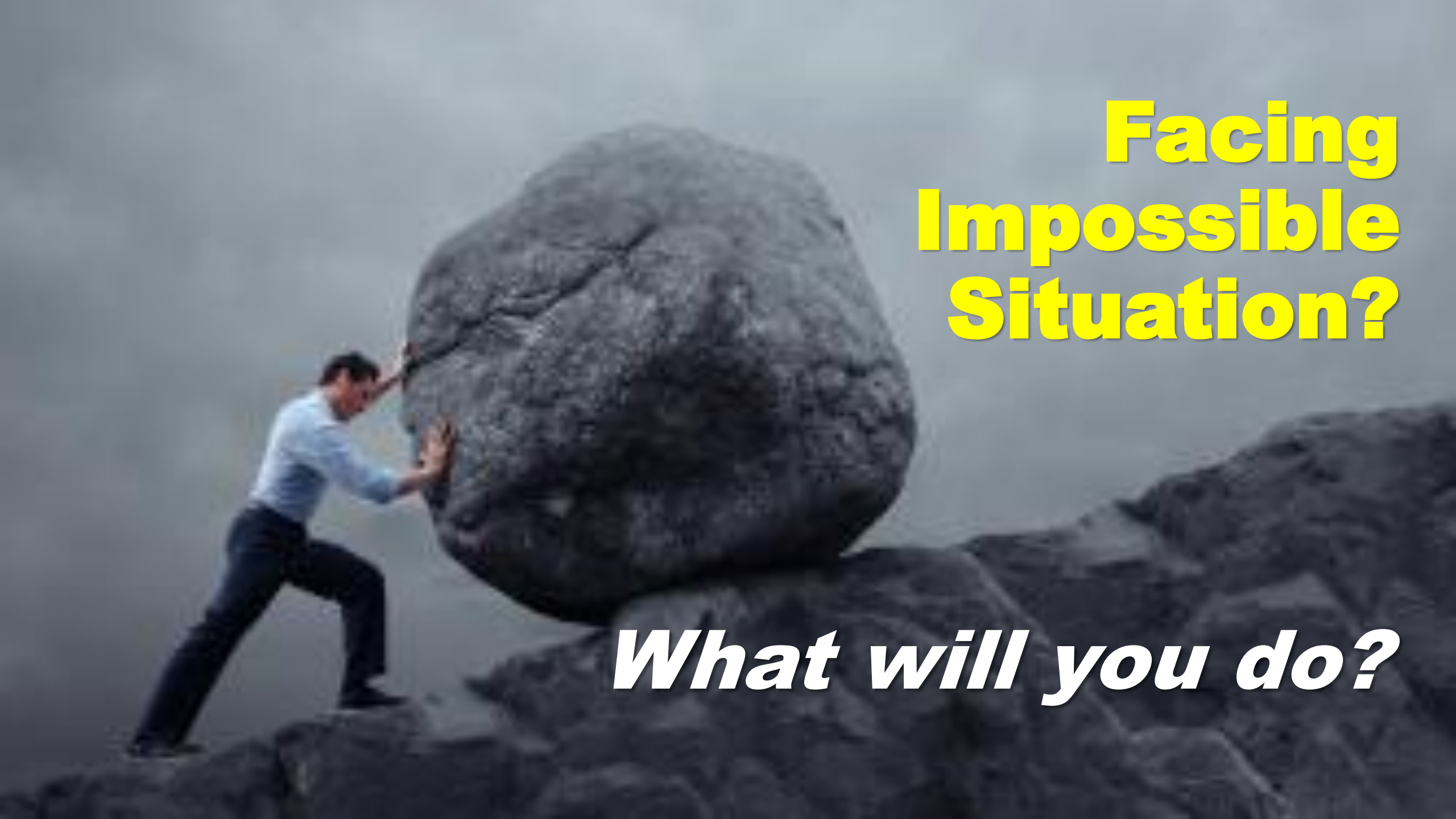
Facing Impossible Challenges

Acts 12:1-19




Facing
Impossible
Situation?
What will you do?

Acts 12:1–19
Peter's Miraculous Escape from Prison

Spiritual Truth: *The church on the move by the Spirit is not a church that never faces impossible challenges. It is a church that keeps moving even when the situation looks impossible.*

Theme: *In times of persecution and uncertainty, the church's greatest resource is prayer and trust in God's sovereignty and moves forward by His Spirit.*



Acts 12:1–19

*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. 5 So Peter was kept in prison, but the
church was earnestly praying to God for him. 6 The night before
Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between
two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard
at the entrance. 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.*

*8 Then the angel said to him, ‘Put on your clothes and sandals.’
And Peter did so. ‘Wrap your cloak round you and follow me,’
the angel told him. 9 Peter followed him out of the prison,
but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really
happening; he thought he was seeing a vision.*

*10 They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron
gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they
went through it. When they had walked the length of one street,
suddenly the angel left him. 11 Then Peter came to himself and
said, ‘Now I know without a doubt that the Lord has sent his
angel and rescued me from Herod’s clutches and from
everything the Jewish people were hoping would happen.’*

*12 When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of
Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many
people had gathered and were praying.*

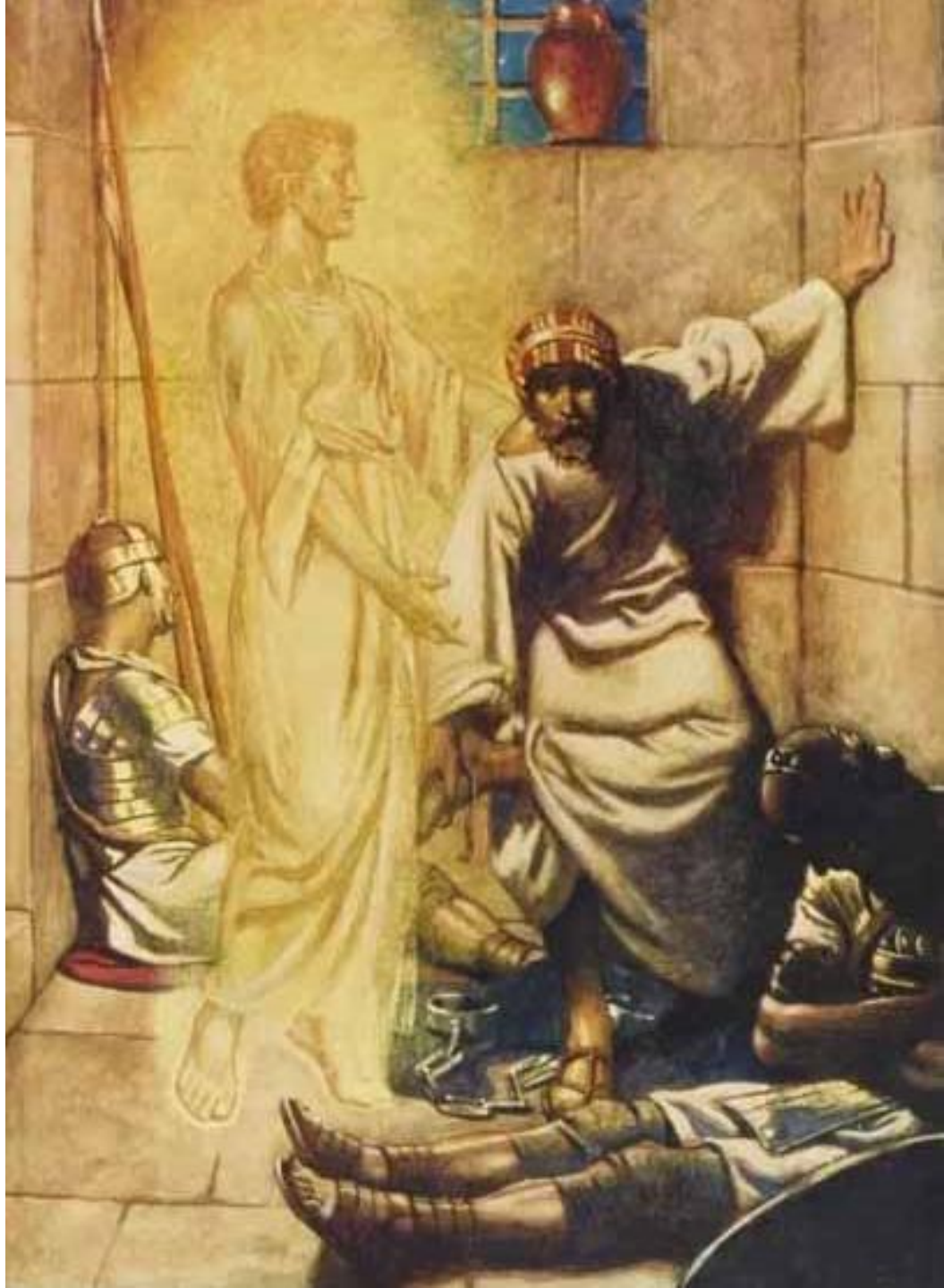
13 Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant named Rhoda came to answer the door. 14 When she recognised Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, 'Peter is at the door!' 15 'You're out of your mind,' they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, 'It must be his angel.' 16 But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. 17 Peter motioned with his hand for them to be quiet and described how the Lord had brought him out of prison. 'Tell James and the other brothers and sisters about this,' he said, and then he left for another place.

18 In the morning, there was no small commotion among the soldiers as to what had become of Peter. 19 After Herod had a thorough search made for him and did not find him, he cross-examined the guards and ordered that they be executed.

Acts 12:1–19
Facing Impossible Challenges

Three things the Spirit-filled church do:

1. **Pray** Earnestly
2. **Trust** God's Sovereignty
3. **Move** Forward with God



The church attacked for belonging to Christ

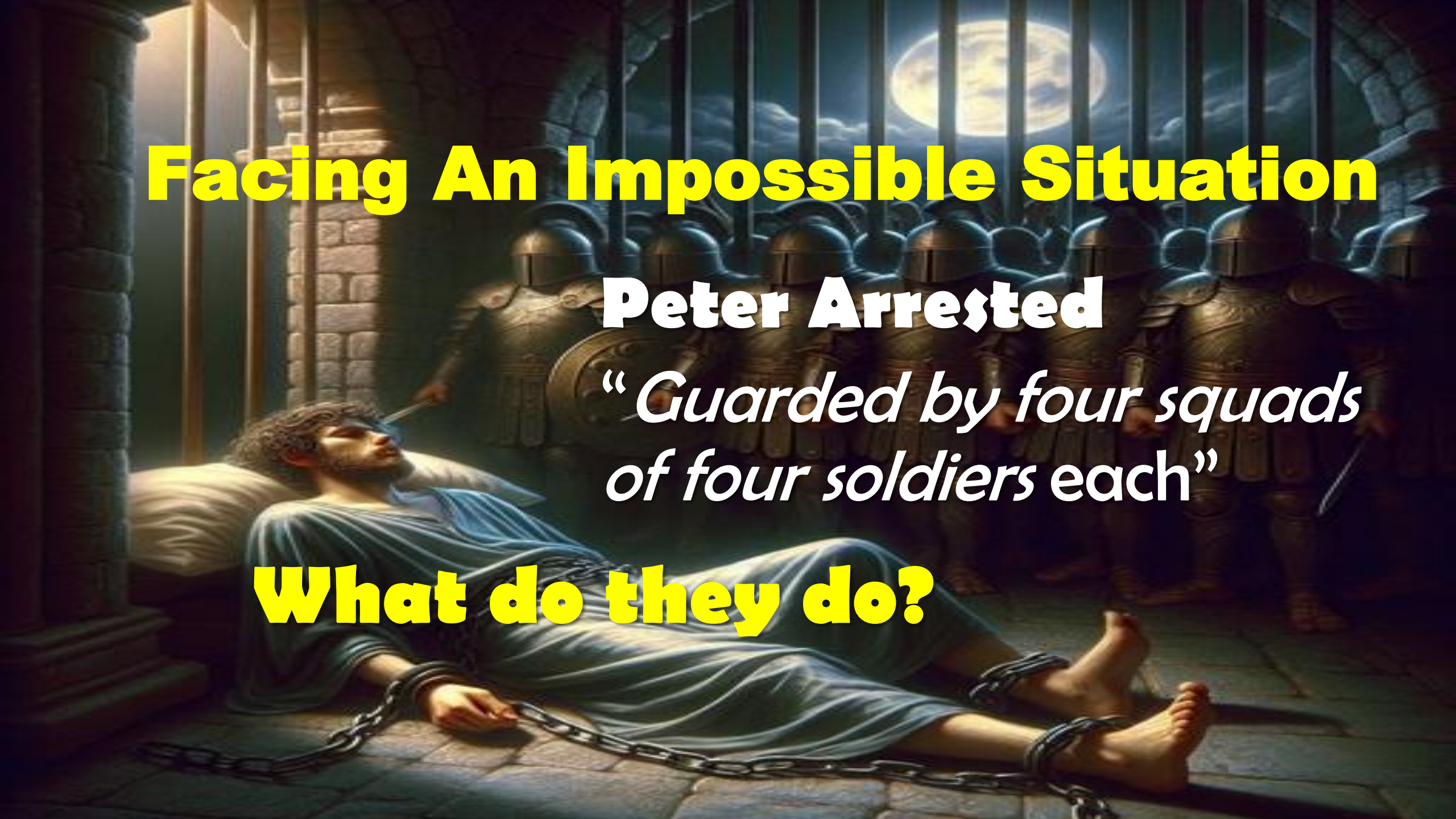
Herod killed James

"About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword…And when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also."

Faithfulness does not mean the absence of suffering






Facing An Impossible Situation
Peter Arrested
"Guarded by four squads of four soldiers each"
What do they do?

1. Pray Earnestly

The church perseveres in prayer

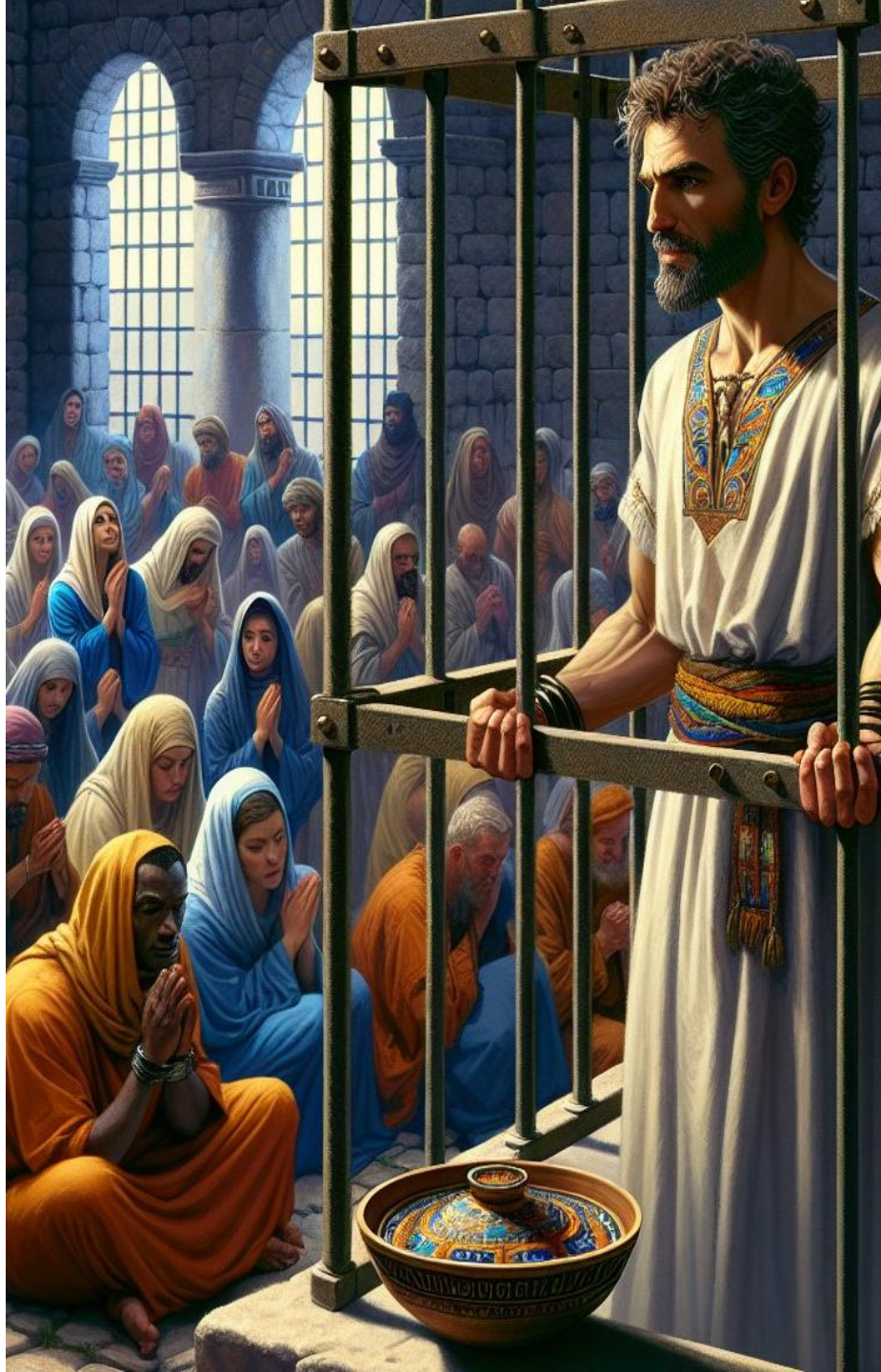
"So Peter was kept in prison,
but earnest prayer for him
was made to God by the church."

A Spirit-led Church is A Praying Church

Prayer was the community's
response to impossibility

A Church Dependent on God

Our circumstances may limit us,
but they do not limit God.



2. Trust God's Sovereignty

Prayer Acknowledges God's Sovereignty

- *Prayer is bringing our impossible situation before the God who is sovereign.*
- *Prayer is not telling God what He must do. Prayer is trusting God for what He would do.*

Peter's Calmness and Peace

Tomorrow he may die. Yet tonight he sleeps.

Peter trusts and rests in God's Sovereignty



GOD CAN OPEN DOORS

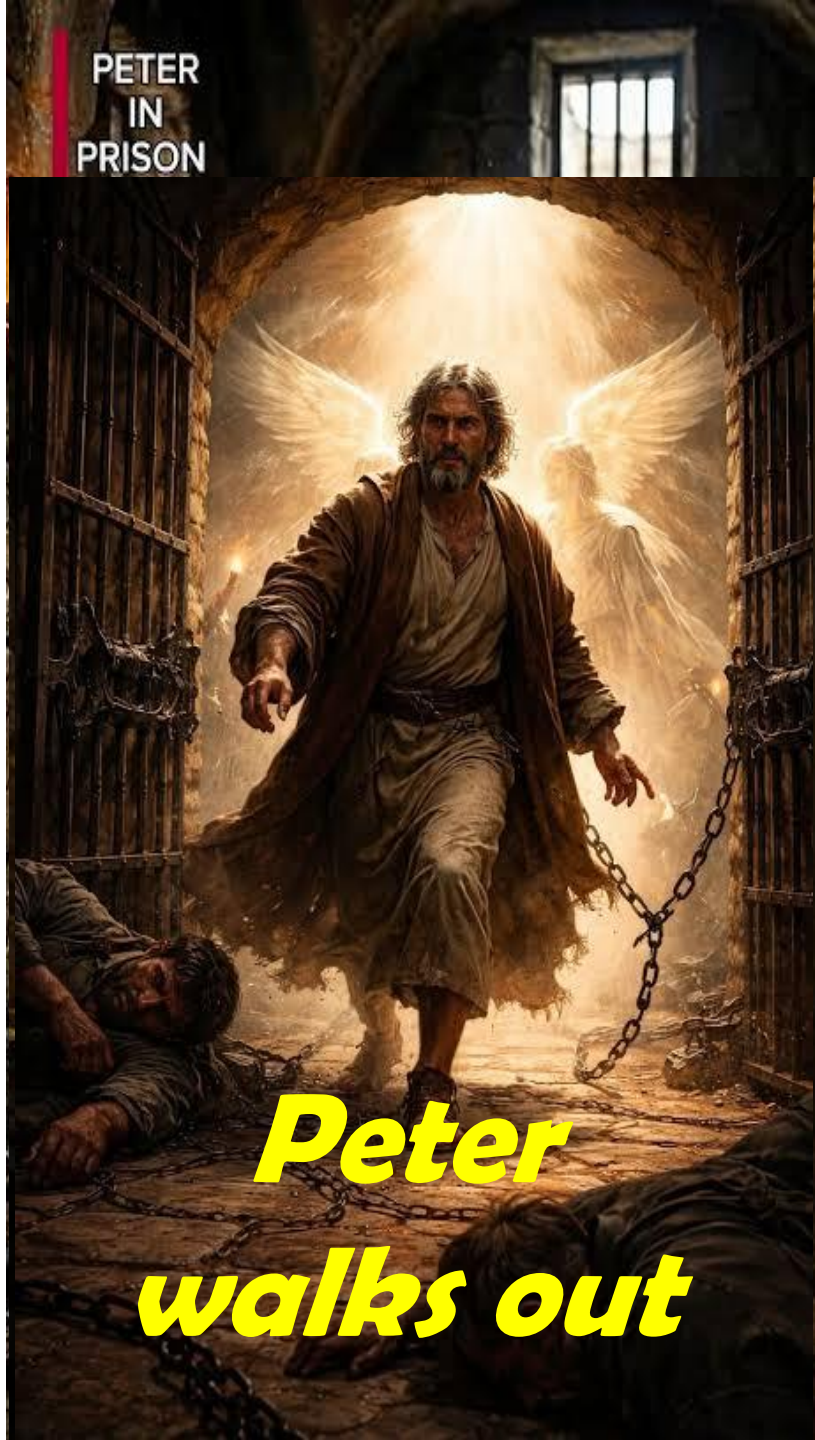
Peter's chains could not limit God

Peter is Sleeping
Chained with guards at the door.

The angel wakes Peter
The light shines. The chains fall off.

Experiences God's Sovereign Grace

11 Then Peter came to himself and said, 'Now I know without a doubt that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were hoping would happen.'



3. Move Forward with God

Peter has been rescued.

He goes to the house of Mary.

The servant girl, Rhoda was overjoyed.

They couldn't believe it!



GOD'S answer spur them on

'Tell James and the other brothers
and sisters about this,' he said,
and then he left for another place.



God is Faithful

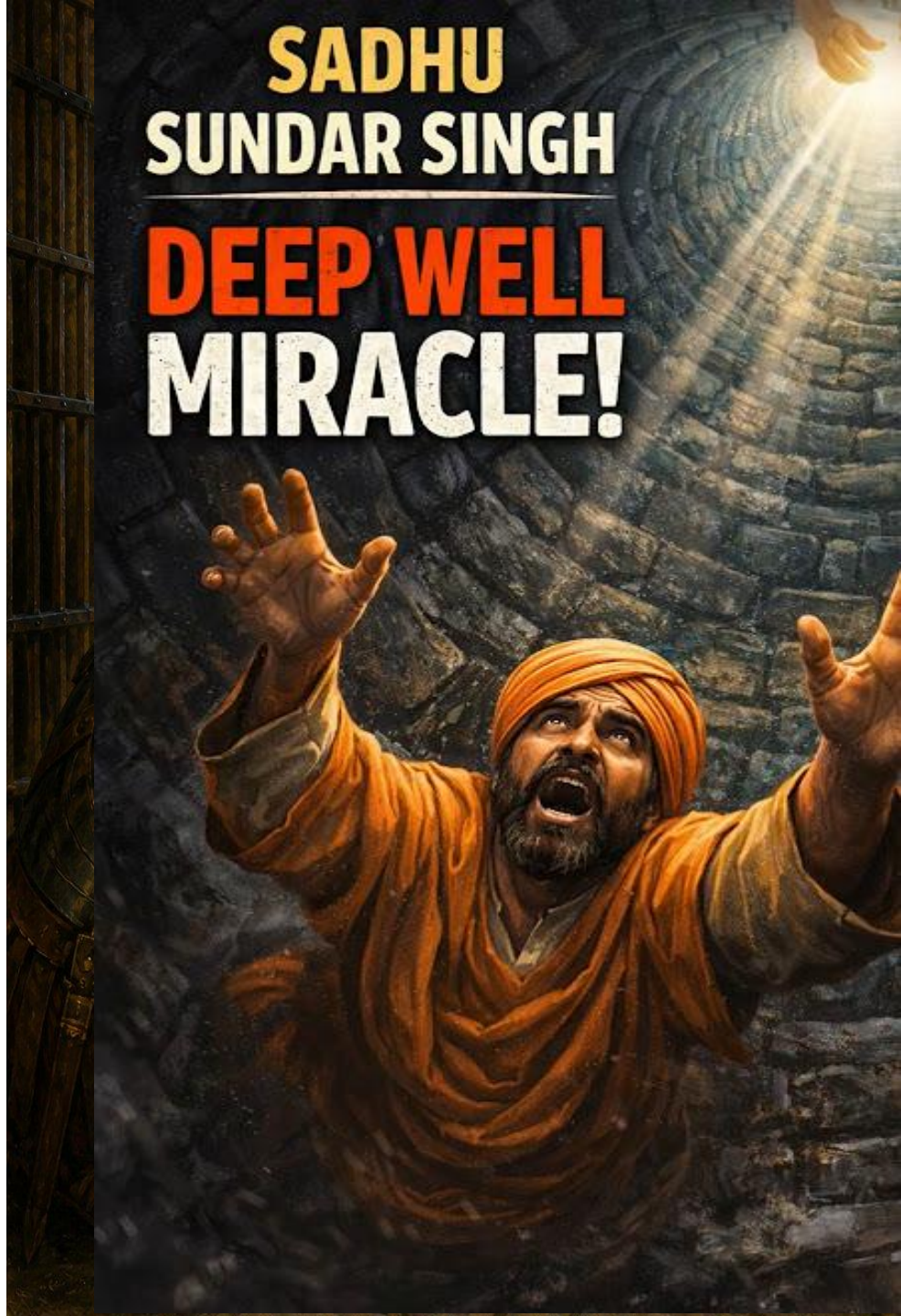
Power Belongs to Him

Conclusion: Facing Impossible Situations

The mission of Christ cannot be stopped by the opposition of men

Herod thinks he is in charge.
But God is writing the story.

- *Herod kills James.*
  God continues the mission.
- *Herod imprisons Peter.*
  God opens the prison.
- *Herod thinks he silence the apostles.*
  God continues advancing the gospel.



The message for the church today

Don't stop moving by His Spirit
because the situation looks impossible

Are you facing an impossible situation?

The Church/Personally

Experience discouragement, financial pressure, internal conflict, illness, persecution, uncertain future.



HOPE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL **2016**

A Faith Venture with God





HOPE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL **2025**

Building Project
RM7.5 Million



2026-2028





Keep Moving Forward with the Spirit

- **Pray Earnestly**
- **Trust God's Sovereignty**

  Believes God is able

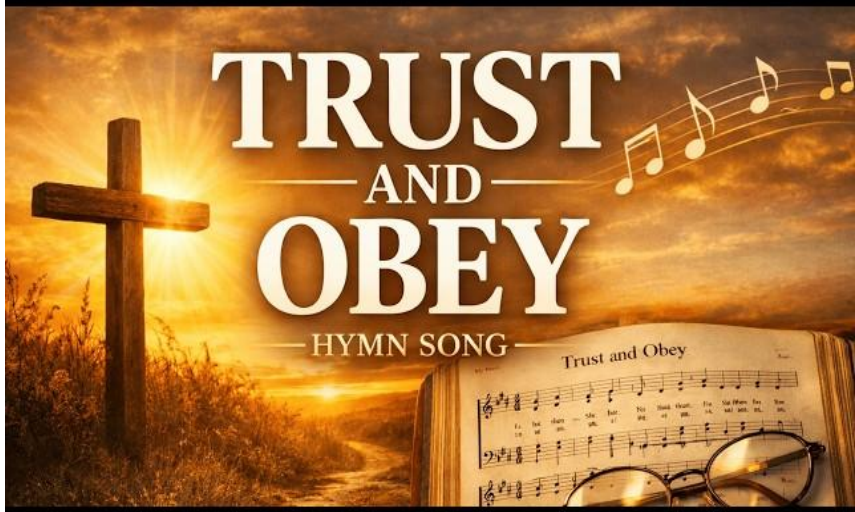
  Remain faithful
- **Move Forward with God**

  When He opens the door,
  walk through it and keep moving.



Trust and Obey by John H. Sammis

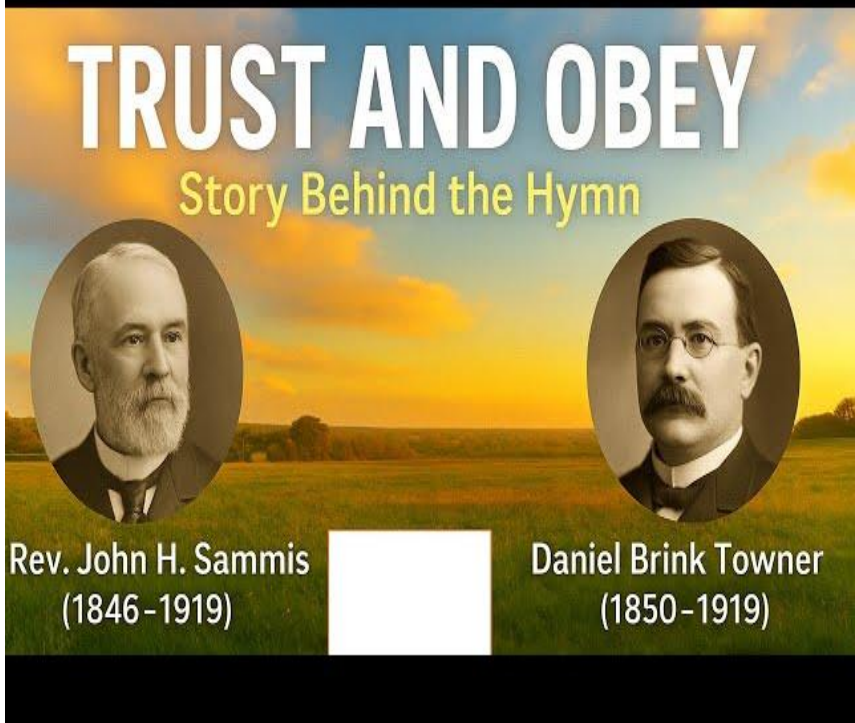
"Trust and obey, for there's no other way,
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey."



DL Moody Revival Meeting 1886

A young man stood up and gave a testimony declaring faith regarding his walk with God:

"I'm not quite sure, but I'm going to trust, and I'm going to obey."





HLCE BE A CHURCH THAT KEEPS MOVING BY THE SPIRIT

- **Prays** when things are impossible.
- **Trusts** when the future is uncertain.
- **Moves** when God opens the door.

HLCE Theme 2026 - Church on the Move

The Spirit Empowered Mission and Service

