

**“ Faith Follies ”**  
Hindrances to Living by Faith  
*Acts 12:1-23*

Your Faith is Often Hindered by your:

**I. Eyes** – “What are You Staring at? (verses 1-4)

**A. Problems** – “Now about that time...”

- It is about the time that we think we have the answers that someone switches up the questions.
- Even though God is not bound by time, He still works within and in respect to our time restraints.
- That time –
  - v. 21&24 Much People added to the Lord
  - v. 26 – “Christians” first in Antioch
  - V. 28 – famine in the land
  - v. 29-30 – Help is on the way through generous saints
- **Gaze / Glance Principle**

\*\* We must learn to see our problems Historically not Hysterically. Understanding that God is at work and this is part of the process of accomplishing His will. God is still in control.

**B. People** -

- **The wicked prospering** – “Herod the King”
- **The good people suffering-** James put to death, Peter in Prison awaiting death
- **Why do some prayers get answered** – James was surely prayed for but he was slain. Peter was freed?

**3 important Perspectives:**

- **People are either slaves to sin or to the Savior**

- **God is sovereign and is working His plan not ours.** Acts 4:28-30 – the early church understood this. Phil 1:6
- **We must stay focused on the Savior not on any other person, no matter how good or bad they are.** Hebrews 12:2

**II. Ears** – Who is Getting in Your Head ? (verses 5-17)

**A. Expectations** – “but prayer”

- **often when trouble hits we work first, worry second, and pray last. Somehow we expect to handle all our situations without God’s help or guidance.** We like to quote Hezekiah 5:8, “God helps those who help themselves.” New Faith Prevention version.
- **Even after going to prayer we have a difficult time believing it will make a difference.** V. 15-16

**B. Experts** – “Thou art mad”

- **Rhoda heard Peter’s voice and believed in God’s power to save, But what does she know she is only a little girl.**

**C. Experiences** – “declared unto them how the Lord”

- **The experiences of others can encourage us**
- **The experiences of others can discourage us**
  - **Does everybody get rescued from death?**
  - **Does everybody get money from an unknown source?**
  - **We must focus on what God is doing in our lives and glorify Him in want and in abundance.**

### III. **E**nemies – Where are the Attacks coming from? (verses 18-23)

#### A. **Scoffers – “Thou art Mad” It cant be true. Praying but not really believing. It must have been miserable in that prayer meeting.**

- **Without faith –**
- **Treat with contempt or Insult**
- **Where would the Soldiers fit in ?**
- **Where would Herod fit in?**
- **Where would the church fit in?**

#### B. **Scoundrels – Those with a heritage and history of deception, wickedness, and violence.**

- **Herod’s family tree is testimony to the reality of a spiritual heritage or the lack thereof.**
- **He was considered a religious practicer of Jewish rites and a religious zealot. Religion does not**

#### C. **System – Verses 19-23**

- **The Jewish people had no respect for or love for Herod**
- **The Jewish people loved the grain that Herod provided**
- **Politics of saying good is bad and bad is good is the world’s way of doing business.**
- **Satan is the administrator of this world’s system II Cor 4:4**
- **Worldliness is buying into the values and methods of Satan in this world.**
- **God desires a people that will praise and Glorify Him only.**
- **God will exact a judgement on those who attempt to steal his glory. Isaiah 42:8**

- **As believers we must commit ourselves to doing things God’s way for God’s glory even when it means discomfort and trial for us.**

#### CONCLUSION:

Romans 14:23 is clear, “Whatever is not of faith is SIN.”

Romans 10:17 is clear , “Faith comes by hearing

Romans 4:20-21 What is faith?