

## THREE SHIPS

### 1 THESSALONIANS 5:12,13

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. Success happens when we all move in the same direction.
2. Three ships need to set their sails in the same direction.

#### I. LEADERSHIP

- A. Leadership needs passion.
  1. **1 THESSALONIANS 5.12:** *"those who labor..."*
  2. Leaders are to stretch out and breathe heavy. (1 Tim. 3.1)
- B. Leadership needs connection.
  1. **1 THESSALONIANS 5.12:** *"...who labor among you..."*
  2. Leaders are not to be over the congregation but among them as one of them. (Acts 20.28; 1 Pet. 5.2,3)
- C. Leadership needs to provide direction.
  1. **1 THESSALONIANS 5.12:** *"...and are over you in the Lord and admonish you"* Lit. To stand in front of.
  2. Admonish: Lit. to put in mind. Leadership helps change the way you think.

#### II. MEMBERSHIP

- A. Membership needs passion.
  1. **1 THESSALONIANS 5.12:** *"And we urge you, brethren"*
  2. Are you zealous? (Titus 2.14; Rev. 3.15,16)
- B. Membership needs connection. **1 THESSALONIANS 5.12:** *"...recognize those who labor among you..."* Lit. to know.
- C. Membership needs to provide direction.
  1. **1 THESSALONIANS 5.13:** *"and to esteem them highly..."*
  2. Esteem means to lead. (Heb. 13.7,17,24; 1 Thess. 5.13)

#### III. FELLOWSHIP

- A. **1 THESSALONIANS 5.13:** *"Be at peace among yourselves"*
- B. What is the wind that drives us all in the same direction so that we go together? (1 Thess. 1.10; 2.19; 3.13; 4.18; 5.23)

CONCLUSION: Are you hot, cold, or lukewarm?

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*"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"*  
-Mark 16.15

July 12, 2026

#### MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM  
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM  
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM  
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:00 PM

### Fear Does Not Come From God

Fear is a natural response to danger. Being afraid is not sinful, but it can become a problem when we allow fear to prevent us from doing what God has called us to do.

Paul addresses a young preacher who was afraid. His fear was understandable as he had suffered severely because of the gospel he was called to preach. Paul prayed for Timothy *"being mindful of your tears"* (2 Tim. 1.4). He encouraged him *"not to be ashamed"* but to be willing to suffer with Paul (2 Tim. 1.8). He reminded him that *"all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution"* (2 Tim. 3.12).

In the midst of all of these encouraging words, Paul wrote that *"God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, but of power, and of love and of a sound mind"* (2 Tim. 1.7). If you want to overcome fear, you begin by remembering that God has given you a spirit of power. We are to have a mindset that we have power.

The word "power" translates a Greek word that refers to ability. We can do what God has called us to do because God has given us the ability. God's method of preaching His good news message is through us. He has given us the ability to do it. We can overcome fear by remembering that God is with us and has only asked us to do what He knows we are capable of doing. CLP

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## JESUS: COMMANDER IN CHIEF

### Acts 12:23

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. Jesus is central to our relationship with God (John 14.6). Therefore, it is important to have an appreciation for Jesus.
2. Acts 12 can be divided into two sections.
  - a) Acts 12.1-19: An angel rescues Peter from prison.
  - b) Acts 12.20-25: An angel punishes Herod.
3. Understanding the role that Jesus plays in our lives, helps deepen our relationship with Him.

#### I. BREAKING DOWN THE TEXT

- A. There are politics.
  1. **Acts 12.20:** The people of Tyre and Sidon came to Herod to make peace with him.
  2. **Acts 12.21:** Herod sat on the judgment seat to render a decision in reference to Tyre and Sidon.
  3. **Acts 12.22:** *“And the people kept shouting, “The voice of a god and not of a man!”*
- B. There is a punishment.
  1. **Acts 12.23:** Herod was immediately struck by an angel *“because he did not give glory to God.”*
  2. **Acts 12.24:** In spite of Herod’s efforts to destroy Christianity, *“the word of God grew and multiplied.”*

#### II. THE APPLICATION OF THE TEXT

- A. Three important passages.
  1. **1 Peter 3.22:** Jesus is in charge of the angels.
  2. **Hebrews 7.25:** Jesus intercedes for those who come to God in prayer through Him.
  3. **Hebrews 1.14:** Angels are dispatched by Jesus to serve those who are Christians.
- B. One Application.
  1. When Peter came to the house of Mary, he found many *“gathered together praying.”* (Acts 12.12)
  2. When we pray to God, Jesus still involves Himself in our lives by sending His angels to help us. (James 5.16)

**CONCLUSION:** What a blessing to know that Jesus intercedes for us when we pray.

## Jesus: Commander of His Angelic Army

Have you ever felt trapped by the circumstances of life? It is easy to look at the mounting cultural and personal trials around us and conclude that we are fighting an impossible battle alone. In Acts 12, the early church faced a crisis when King Herod Agrippa executed the apostle James and threw Peter into prison (Acts 12.1-4). Yet, behind his obvious political strategy, the involvement of Jesus was in motion completely changing how we view our struggles today.

From this account, we learn that Jesus commands His invisible angelic army. When King Herod deployed four squads of soldiers, heavy iron chains, and multiple guard posts to secure Peter, he believed he was in control (Acts 12.4-6). When Peter was miraculously liberated from his chains, he came to himself and declared, *“Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me”* (Acts 12.11). This highlights that Jesus possesses total authority over the heavenly realm (Matt. 28.18). The angels belong exclusively to Him.

From this account, we also learn that Jesus dispatches His army for our providential care. Think about the active position that Jesus occupies right now as He sits at the right hand of God. First, we are told that angels have been made subject to Him (1 Pet. 3.22). Second, we are told that these angels are sent out to minister to the saved (Heb. 1.14). The One who commands His angels sends these angels out to help us. Are you facing hardship? The age of miracles has served its biblical purpose. But Jesus continues to dispatch His innumerable company of angels into the unseen realm of providence to serve our needs (Heb. 12.22).

From this account, we also learn that Jesus executes judgment over the proud. Consider the example of Herod. He wore royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and accepted the praise of the people who shouted, *“The voice of a god and not of a man!”* (Acts 12.21,22). The word translated as *“throne”* in this specific setting is bema, which literally refers to a judicial judgment seat. In sharp contrast to the rescue of Peter, *“immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God”* (Acts 12.23). When we are tempted to despair over the apparent triumph of wickedness or the pride of life in our culture, we must remember that the Commander in Chief is still in charge.

What an incredible blessing we share as faithful Christians to know that the Lord orchestrates the unseen realm on our behalf (Rom. 5.3-5). When we appeal to God in prayer, our savior lives to make intercession for us and sets His providential care into immediate motion (Heb. 7.25). Let us face every hardship with unwavering confidence, knowing that Jesus is Commander in Chief.

CLP