

# Daniel and the Power of Faithful Prayer

*Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Sept 1<sup>st</sup>*

**Daniel is a remarkable book about both Prophecy and Prayer!**

It was in answer to prayer that God revealed the Kings prophetic dream about the future kingdoms in the world in Daniel 2.

It was Daniel's faithful and obedient praying that landed him in the lion's den (Dan. 7) And then protected him through it.

Because of His years of faithful, prayerful service, God continued to reveal his prophetic plans. (Ch 7,8)

**Daniel 9 opens with him studying scripture! 2 Tim. 2:15**

**1. In 597 BC God revealed his plan to Jeremiah. Jer 29:10**

*"after 70 years be accomplished at Babylon and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place. 11 For I know the thoughts (maḥashābâ: plans) that I think (ḥāshab: to weave) toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. 12 Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. 13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: 14 And I will turn away your captivity,"*

**A. Why 70 years of captivity?**

- 1) Israel was commanded to allow its land to remain idle every 7<sup>th</sup> year (Lev. 25:1-4, 18-22).
  - a) Obedience would bring great blessings. Lev 26:1-13
  - b) Disobedience would bring judgment. Lev. 26:14-46
- 2) For 490 (out of 1000 years) they disobeyed (Lev. 26:33-35; Jer. 34:12-22; 2 Chr. 36:21) building up a "land debt" of 70 years.
- 3) God warned them about the consequences of this 1000 years earlier! (Lev. 26:30-35)

**2. In 539 God revealed His Plan to Daniel Daniel 9:2**

**A. God wants to reveal himself and his plan! 1 Cor 10:11**

- 1) He does this most clearly through his word. Ps. 119:105; Amos 3:7; Jn 14:21; Ps. 19:11

**3. God's Revelations are His Invitations!**

**A. They're not just about information, but:**

1) Clarification (Recognition) vs 2 *"I Daniel understood ..."* (bin: discerned, recognized)

Ps 119:130 *"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple."*

(Ps. 119:105; Jn 8:32; 2 Cor. 4:4-6; 2 Tim. 2:15)

Clarification/ Recognition is prerequisite to:

2) Transformation: vs 3 *"I set (natan: gave) my face (pānîm: focus, before) unto the Lord God"*

a) Focus produces Force! (energy) 2 Cor. 3:18 *"But we all with open face, beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord are changed (metamorphoo: transfigured, transformed) into the same image, from glory to glory, even by the Spirit of the Lord."* (see Ro. 8:28,29)

b) God's Spirit uses God's word (truth) to transform us! Heb. 4:12; Ro. 12:2; 2 Pt 1:2-4

Jn 15:3 *"Ye are clean through the word which I've spoken unto you..."*

Ps. 119:9-11 *"wherewithal shall a man cleanse his ways? By taking heed...according to thy word."*

c) Distraction Fights Transformation! Mt 6:33; Phil. 3:13-19; Gal. 5:17

Clarification and Transformation motivate and enable:

**3) Participation (Partnership) (Exodus 3; 1 Cor 3:9; Mt 11:28,29)**

**Daniel partnered with God in Prayer! Vs 3-19 Effective Prayer involves:**

a) An intentional shift of direction (focus) 3a *"I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer..."*  
Phil 4:6,7 *"be anxious (miramnao: distracted) for nothing but in everything by prayer (proseuchē: toward God/worship) and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. And the Peace (from eiro: meaning to join) of God which passeth all understanding, shall keep (phroureō: guard) your heart and mind through Christ Jesus"*

b) An intensity motivating the removal of temporary Distractions. 3b

*"with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:"* (See also Mt. 6:6; James 5:16)

An intentional shift of Direction with an intense removal of distractions reveals much about God and ourselves; (Ps. 36:9; Isaiah 6:5; 1 Jn 1:5-10) and enables an:

c) **Honest Reflection leading to sincere confession.** Vs 4-5 *"I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, ... We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled..."*

Daniel's reading led to God's Revelation → God's Revelation was His Invitation.

Daniel recognized and responded to this by faithful and fervent prayer.

Prayer is Participation in Spiritual Warfare! Dan. 10

**B. Notice how Daniel closed His prayer.** Vs 19 *"O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, ( adōnāy: from adon: master, controller) hearken and do;"* (DO WHAT?)

1) What He'd promised to do! (*Restore in response to repentant prayer.*) (Lev. 26:40-46; 2 Ch. 7:14)  
1 Jn 5:14 *"This is the confidence we have in Him that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us!"*

**C. Notice how God responded to Daniels faithful prayer partnership.** Dan. 9:21-23

*"Gabriel, ... said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved!"*

### Conclusion:

**Light (truth) received (responded to) brings more light.**

**Light (truth) rejected (ignored) brings darkness.**

God found in Daniel someone who valued His word and responded to it.

Because Daniel recognized and responded to God's revelation about the 70 years of captivity;

God revealed much more to Him. Vs 24-27

3x God tells Daniel he's "Greatly beloved" (Daniel 9:23; 10:11, 19)

Jn 14:21 *"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."*

### Application:

What are you doing to better understand God's word and will? (Ro. 12:1,2)

What are you doing about what you do understand? James 1:21,22

*"Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."*

James 4:17 *"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."*

Ephesians 6:10-13 *"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."*

11 *Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

12 *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.* 13 *Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand....*

*Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit"*