

J.J.

DANIEL : A MAN OF PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENT :

A Call to Prayer and Fasting this week

COVID Cases are on the rise.

2 Chronicles 7:14 if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Please note here that the ones who are asked to humble themselves, pray, seek God's face and turn from their wicked ways is GOD'S PEOPLE. *if my people*

INTRODUCTION :

Quote : Prayer is spiritual battle. We are taking on the offensive against the enemy when we are on our knees.

In a spiritual battle, there is the defense and the offense. In Ephesians 6, we know when the enemy attacks, we take full armor of God – belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, proper footwear which is standing on God's peace, shield of faith and helmet of salvation.

But there are two weapons, when it comes to spiritual offense – the Word of God and prayer.

Ephesians 6: 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. 19 Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

The Word of God is for hand to hand, close contact combat :

Two words for sword in the Bible :

1. rhompaia (large sword) usually, a warrior on a horse and swinging this sword to kill as many as possible.
2. sword of the spirit (machaira) small sword. This is used for hand to hand combat.

This is the reason Bible study is important, reading God's Word is important, memorizing God's word is important... you must know how to handle God's Word because the devil will sometimes attack you or your family personally. You can use the full armor for defense but you need to push back and take offense by using the machaira of the spirit.

By God's grace, you will see later, why the Bible and prayer go hand in hand.

But our other offensive weapon is prayer... this is what I call air cover!

War movies illustration : Have you seen those war movies when a small troop is facing the enemy and then somebody on the walkie-talkie calls for back-up and then a bigger force comes in whether through jets or planes bombing the enemy or more troops coming in to defeat the enemy...THAT'S WHAT PRAYER DOES!

Biblical Illustration : Show Acts 12

Peter was captured but the church prayed. And while they were praying, an angel came to free Peter.

Acts 12 : 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.

There's a quote somewhere that says, "It was the angel who fetched Peter but it was prayer that fetched the angel."

Quote : What the Church needs today is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use--men of prayer, men mighty in prayer.

E.M.Bounds

In the next 3 Lord's Day by God's grace, we will study Daniel, a mighty man of prayer

Daniel 9

Daniel's Prayer

¹ In the first year of Darius son of Ahasuerus (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom- ² in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the LORD given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. ³ So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.

PRAY

BACKGROUND :

Who is Daniel? And why did I call him a mighty man of prayer

1. HE WAS A MAN OF INTEGRITY

He's the only major character in the Bible apart from Enoch and Jesus (of course, who is the Son of God) that has been a man of integrity all throughout.

Daniel 6: 1 It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, 2 with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss. 3 Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. 4 At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.

What's his secret?

2. HE WAS A MAN OF PRAYER

A MAN OF GOD IS A MAN OF PRAYER EVEN IF IT WILL COST HIM HIS LIFE – Daniel 6:4-10 (NO EXCUSES)

5 Finally these men said, “We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God.”

6 So these administrators and satraps went as a group to the king and said: “May King Darius live forever! 7 The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions’ den. 8 Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.” 9 So King Darius put the decree in writing. 10 Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

SO IT'S GOOD TO TAKE A LOOK AT HOW HE PRAYED, WHAT HE PRAYED FOR AND WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE PRAY

It's going to be a 3-part study, we'll take a look first at how he prayed.

I. HE PRAYED IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

¹ *In the first year of Darius son of Ahasuerus (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom- ² in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the LORD given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years.*

Read Jeremiah 25:11-12; 29:

Jeremiah 25 : 11 This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

12 “But when the seventy years are fulfilled, I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation, the land of the Babylonians, for their guilt,” declares the Lord, “and will make it desolate forever.

- a.) Daniel was taken into captivity around 13 or 14 (605 B.C). years old at the start of the captivity
- b.) During this time he is around 80 years old
Subtract 13 or 14 from 80 and you get 67 or 68

Daniel knows that within 2 or 3 years, God will fulfill His promise according to Scripture.

What did he do? ³ So I turned to the Lord God...

What can we learn from Daniel?

He is a student of God's Word

- ***I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures,...***

He will never know the promise if he didn't study the word of God.

Application : Right now, a lot of people are living in desperation because they don't know the promises contained in the Word of God.

Example : If you see what's happening today, it is part of God's plan for the coming back of His Son.

Wifi : 2.4G, then it became 5G...now it's going to be 6E... internet and wifi are going to be much faster than ever.... That news and market and info will be much much faster.

Daniel 12:4 But you, Daniel, keep this prophecy a secret; seal up the book until the time of the end, when many will rush here and there, and knowledge will increase.”

As people of God, we are called to be students of God's Word.

Joshua 1:8 Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Acts 17:11 Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

You might say Pastor, I have no time to read God's Word.

Here's my response to this : If you have time for Facebook, surely you will have time for the Good book.

How is this now connected with prayer?

When we pray according to God's Word, we can claim that from God and it gives us hope.

Note : You can only claim what was promised... this charismatic thing of "name and claim" is unbiblical.

For example : Next year, you will have \$1M, I claim it... but wait, did God promise it? Again, you can only claim what was promised in God's Word.

The most powerful prayers are the prayers according to His Word.

Psalm 119: Remember your word to your servant, for you have given me hope.

II. **HE PRAYED RECOGNIZING HIS WEAKNESS**

³ So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.

1. **He submitted to God's authority (in everything)**

³ So I turned to the Lord God ...KJV "I set my face unto the Lord God

Etymology : nathan paynim Adonai

Nathan – submit

Paynim – presence

Adonai – Lord (authority)

Meaning - So I submit my entire focus/being...TO THE GOD OF THE UNIVERSE

This is how we should pray... OUR ENTIRE BEING...OUR ENTIRE FOCUS DURING THE TIME OF PRAYER IS ON GOD.

IN THE ZONE Illustration : If you are a sports fan whether basketball, football, or even race car driving... athletes have this term that they use, they are "in the zone" ... that's the time that they are not distracted by anything but focused on the game...they are focused on the moment and that's why their performance is at their optimum.

When it comes to prayer, we need to be in zone...that's the reason why when I ask you to pray, I ask you to bow your head and close your eyes... not because it's a ritual, but because first, you are showing respect and second, we don't want you to be distracted by others...So next time, I ask the church to pray by God's grace, I will say, **let's go into our prayer zone.**

That's why our Lord Jesus said,

Matthew 6: 6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

Closet is "inner chamber"...anywhere where there's less distraction.

Prayer Zone Story : Susanna Wesley had 10 children. She was the wife of a pastor of a small Anglican church. Their rectory was small and with 10 children running around, it was so hard to find a place of prayer. But Susanna was dedicated to spend time to pray to her Lord Jesus. So what she did is she pulled her apron over her head. That's a signal to the children that she is not to be disturbed and during that time she spends praying to the Lord. Her family produced John and Charles Wesley, who is instrumental in bringing to the Gospel to a lot of people and even affecting the entire world.

2. He requested with fervency

...and pleaded with him in prayer and petition

Etymology : baqash – to desire, to demand – root word “to touch”

Application : When we pray, we want to touch the Lord

Story : The story of the bleeding woman Mark 5:25-34

Mark 5: 25 Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, 26 and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. 27 When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. 28 For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well."

29 Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. 30 And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My clothes?" 31 But His disciples said to Him, "You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'"

32 And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. 33 But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. 34 And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction."

Lesson : Her only hope was Jesus “care of many doctors...grew worse...when she heard about Jesus. 2. She doesn’t care about the distractions “social distractions” “a large crowd and pressed around him.” Remember, a woman who is bleeding is considered unclean and whoever touches her is unclean...but she didn’t care because she was DESPERATE!!!

Quote : God doesn’t answer prayers. He answers desperate prayers. – Leonard Ravenhill

Why do we pray with fervency? Because we know Jesus is our only hope.

3. He responded with humility

...in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.

Significance of fasting : It’s saying , “Lord, you are more important than food (my desires)... ” We can also abstain from sexual with our partners 1 Corinthians 7:5

Significance of sackcloth : It’s saying “Lord, you are more important than material things...”

Significance of ashes : It’s saying “Lord, you are more important than me...” (I recognize you just made me from dust and without you I am nothing.

In short, TO PRAY IS TO RECOGNIZE OUR DEPENDENCY ON OUR LORD JESUS!

John 15: 5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

That’s why when we pray, it’s our admittance of our own weakness without our Lord and that’s the time we are strong!!!

Look at how Paul prayed :

2 Corinthians 12: 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

There’s a saying, “Prayer is God’s weakness and man’s strength.”

REMEMBER THIS : YOU ARE AT YOUR STRONGEST WHEN YOU ARE ON YOUR KNEES BEFORE THE LORD.

Illustration : Bexy had an experiment before with a magnifying glass...tapat sa papel...That's how we should pray...All God's power magnified in our lives, it consumes us...dahil mag-aapoy tayo because of Him.

Story : When Luther's puppy happened to be at the table, he looked for a morsel from his master, and watched with open mouth and motionless eyes; he (Martin Luther) said, 'Oh, if I could only pray the way this dog watches the meat! All his thoughts are concentrated on the piece of meat. Otherwise he has no thought, wish or hope."

S.G.D.