

WHY IS DANIEL A MIGHTY MAN OF PRAYER?

INTRODUCTION :

We have discussed Daniel as a mighty man of prayer.

For the past 4 weeks, we have seen :

- How Daniel prayed
- What he prayed for
- How his prayers were answered

It piqued my interest on why Daniel's prayer was answered immediately. It did not only happen once but twice :

Daniel 9 : 23 As soon as you began to pray, an answer was given,

Daniel 10: 12 Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them.

There is this teaching that God always answers prayers. It's either Yes, No or Maybe. But the truth of the matter is, God wants to say Yes to our prayers!

Let me quote what A.W. Tozer said :

God wants us to pray and He wants to answer our prayers, but He makes our use of prayer as a privilege to commingle with His use of prayer as a discipline. To receive answers to prayer we must meet God's terms.

What are those terms? Let's look at the life of Daniel when he prays. God calls Daniel, highly esteemed

PRAY

1. CORRECT MOTIVATION

When he was praying in Daniel 9, look at his petition.

Daniel 9 : 17 "Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary. 18 Give ear, our God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. 19

Lord, listen! Lord, forgive! Lord, hear and act! For your sake, my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name.”

What was Daniel’s motivation?

God’s Name – the reputation of God’s name.

Daniel’s motivation was God’s glory!

Biblical Illustration :

Moses was talking with God and he was taking long and they didn’t know what happened to him. Since no one was guiding them, what did they do? They decided to make their own god – the golden calf.

Our Lord’s anger was burning and he wanted to destroy them and start all over with Moses and make him a great nation.

Did he say to God? Oh yes! It is through me that a great nation will be started. MOSES wasn’t concerned about his own glory or reputation but God’s reputation!

The prayer of Moses

Exodus 32 : 11 But Moses sought the favor of the Lord his God. “Lord,” he said, “why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? 12 Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that He brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth?’

More details in Numbers 14

Numbers 14: 15 If you put all these people to death, leaving none alive, the nations who have heard this report about you will say, 16 ‘The Lord was not able to bring these people into the land he promised them on oath, so he slaughtered them in the wilderness.’

Look at the prayer of Jesus in John 17

*John 17 : 1 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:
“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.*

Daniel was concerned about God’s glory.

When we pray, we don’t get answers to our prayers, because we are more concerned about our own convenience, our own pleasures...in short, our own sake.

James 4: 3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

When we pray, our main motivation in the end should be the glory of God.

Look at what the Psalmist said :

Psalm 50:15 Then call on me when you are in trouble, and I will rescue you, and you will give me glory.”

2. CONFESSION OF GOD'S WORTH AND MAN'S SINFULNESS

If you read again the prayer of Daniel, it was full of confession on who God is and realization of our own sinfulness.

Daniel 9:4 I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed:

"Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, 5 we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. 6 We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our ancestors, and to all the people of the land.

7 "Lord, you are righteous, but this day we are covered with shame—the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, both near and far, in all the countries where you have scattered us because of our unfaithfulness to you.

9 The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him;

14 The Lord did not hesitate to bring the disaster on us, for the Lord our God is righteous in everything he does; yet we have not obeyed him.

18... We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy.

There are times when we pray, we ask God, "Lord, why are you not answering my prayer or Lord why did you allow this situation to me, please take me out of this situation, I go to church every Sunday, I give my tithes and offering, I give to charities and etc. or I am a good mom or dad or I am a good citizen, I am better than other people."

We pray and expect Him to answer as if God owes us something.

I remember what the youth pastor in at People's church said

"We are keenly aware that we need to repent of our sins, but do you know that you are also called to repent of your righteousness" - Christopher Shipster

Sometimes, people come to me and ask me to pray for them and then they would remark something like this.

"Pastor, please pray for me. I know God will hear your prayers because you are a good person" I cringe simply because that's not true. I always reply that God will answer our prayers by God's grace because He is good.

This is the reason why James said

James 4:6 That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble

*Psalm 51 : 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart,
O God, you will not despise*

3. CONSISTENCY IN HIS FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

Daniel 6 : 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.

Illustration : Entropy

Webster : "The degradation of the matter and energy in the universe to an ultimate state of inert uniformity."

It is the tendency of all matter to fall apart, wear out or disintegrate.

For example : There's a reason it's important to ask the mileage of the car when buying a used one. It's because the more a car is used, the higher the entropy or the more chances it will break down. The same with any material thing.

BUT when it comes to our own body, it's the opposite. Entropy happens faster when we do not exercise or when it is not used. The faster it will disintegrate.

It's called "**the disuse syndrome**" To make sure the body is healthy, one of the things you need to do is exercise it use it.

It's the same with our spiritual life. The more we pray, the healthier our relationship with God is.

Daniel had a consistent fellowship with God and we studied before, through Scriptures and through prayer.

And you know what happens when we have constant fellowship with God through His Word and Prayer? We will know the mind of God better. We will know Him better. **This is the reason why Daniel's prayers are answered, it is because he knows God's will. He prays according to God's will.**

That's why our Lord Jesus said :

John 15:17 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

That's why the words in Colossians

Colossians 4: 2 Be persistent in prayer, and keep alert as you pray, giving thanks to God.

Etymology : persistent “prokastereo” constant, steadfast, adhere, attentive, wait on constantly

Quote : People use prayer like a spare wheel instead of the engine.

In short, people only pray when there's something wrong already. But they never pray before making any plans or deciding on something big if God wants it. **Some of us do not even pray at the start of the day. Prayer should be the driving force of our lives.**

Example : We cannot say, we are too busy to pray. Daniel is running a province and will eventually run an entire kingdom.

Quote : It is a good thing to let prayer be the first business of the morning and the last of the evening. – Martin Luther

4. CHARACTER IN LIFE

Daniel 9: “23 As soon as you began to pray, an answer was given, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed.”

You know why Daniel was highly esteemed or beloved?

It's because whatever happens he will not compromise obeying God and his fellowship with God. It showed right from the very start of the book of Daniel but it was very evident in Daniel 6.

Earlier we read :

Daniel 6 : 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.

What was the background of this?

King Darius had 120 satraps that rule over the kingdom. They are like governors of each province. But Daniel had God's favour on him that the king wanted him to rule over these satraps. Of course, out of jealousy, envy and thinking that Daniel is a Jew, why would they allow that? No! No! No! **So look at what they tried to do.**

Daniel 6 : 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. 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.”

And what was that? They knew that Daniel will not compromise his time of worship with God. So they asked King Darius to issue a decree that whoever worships any god

or human being other than King Darius would be thrown into the lion's den. So King Darius issued the decree.

What did Daniel do?

Daniel 6 : 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.

Of course, Daniel got into trouble. He was thrown into the Lion's den but God protected him. Nothing happened to him. The satraps were the ones thrown and King Darius believed in God and issued an edict to fear and revere Daniel's God.

And you know what happened?

Daniel 6: 28 So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

What was the secret of Daniel? It's also in Daniel 6

Daniel 6: 23 ... And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

Let's not put our trust in our jobs, abilities and intellect or even people. Let's put our trust only in God.

Psalm 20:7 Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

*Psalm 146 : 3 Do not put your trust in princes,
in human beings, who cannot save.*

*5 Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God.*

5. CONCENTRATION ON GOD AND HIS WORD.

I encourage you to read the book of Daniel, not only to study the end-times but to study his character and throughout the whole book, there is one underlying theme... Daniel's mind and heart is focus on following the Lord no matter what happens.

Remember, they were under a pagan rule where they can easily compromise for fear of death or loss of life but Daniel was focused on God.

- He followed God's Word even if the society around them approved of things that are contrary to God's Word at that time.
- He preached God's Word even if by doing so, it will put his life in danger.
- He worshipped God even if it was dangerous to do so.

- He trusted in God while in the midst of danger.

You know why Daniel was a mighty man of prayer? It's because He KNOWS AND BELIEVES that God is Almighty.

And it was seen on how he lived his life. May we truly believe on who God is like Daniel did. And you know what will happen? This is what God said to Daniel.

Daniel 13: 13 "As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance."

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

S.G.D.