

WHAT DID DANIEL PRAY FOR? (Part 2 of 3)

Daniel 9:1-19

ANNOUNCEMENT :

We finished 1 week of prayer and fasting.

By God's grace, I will open daily praying at 8:00 p.m., spend time with God, whoever wants to join, can join. We will continue to pray for this country until the end of the month.

INTRODUCTION

Story Early African converts to Christianity were earnest and regular in private devotions. Each one reportedly had a separate spot in the thicket where he would pour out his heart to God. Over time the paths to these places became well worn. As a result, if one of these believers began to neglect prayer, it was soon apparent to the others. They would kindly remind the negligent one, "Brother, the grass grows on your path."

Quote : Dr. Guthrie, an old saint of God who lived a century ago, said, "The first sign of true spiritual life is prayer, and it is also the means of maintaining spiritual life. Man can, as well, live physically without breathing as spiritually without praying."

Two things about man praying :

1. We don't pray enough.
2. We don't know what to pray for.

The first one "not praying enough", that you can control by God's grace while the 2nd part of "we do not know what to pray for," today, by God's grace, you will learn through the example of Daniel.

Daniel 9:1 In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian[b] 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.

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. 8 We and our kings, our princes and our ancestors are covered with shame, Lord, because we have sinned against you. 9 The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him; 10 we have not obeyed the Lord our God or kept the laws he gave us through his servants the prophets. 11 All Israel has transgressed your law and turned away, refusing to obey you.

"Therefore the curses and sworn judgments written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against you. 12 You have fulfilled the words spoken against us and against our rulers by bringing on us great disaster. Under the whole heaven nothing has ever been done like what has been done to Jerusalem. 13 Just as it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come on us, yet we have not sought the favor of the Lord our God by turning from our sins and giving attention to your truth. 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.

15 "Now, Lord our God, who brought your people out of Egypt with a mighty hand and who made for yourself a name that endures to this day, we have sinned, we have done wrong. 16 Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, turn away your anger and your wrath from Jerusalem, your city, your holy hill. Our sins and the iniquities of our ancestors have made Jerusalem and your people an object of scorn to all those around us.

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."

Pray

Review last week :

- This is a three part series sermon
- How he prayed, what he prayed for, what happened when he prayed

Last week we saw how Daniel prayed.

He prayed in response to God's Word.

, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the LORD

Why is this important?

1 John 5:14 "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

That's why when we pray "In Jesus' name", it's not a magic formula like "abracadabra." It's praying a prayer that we know our Lord Jesus Himself will pray.

And what will our Lord pray?

Luke 22:42 "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."

How will we know the will of God? GOD'S WORD!

We also talked about Daniel
prayed recognizing His weakness

1. submitted to God's authority.

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

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

2. requested with fervency

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

Etymology : baqash – to desire, to demand – root word "to touch"

Quote : Brooks said, years ago, "As a painted fire is no fire, a dead man is no man, so cold prayer is no prayer.

3. and in humility (the whole prayer of Daniel 9)

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

Story : A farmer went with his son to a wheat field. He wanted to see if it was ready for the harvest. "See, father," said the boy, "see how straight the stems hold up their heads? The ones that hold their heads up so straight, they must be the...the best ones. Those that are bent over and hung down, they can't be good for much." The farmer plucked a stalk of each kind and said, "Look, foolish child, the reason they stand so straight is because the grain is so small. The bent ones are the good ones. The straight ones are well nigh useless."

Biblical Illustration : You remember the story of the Pharisee and the tax collector on how they prayed in Luke 18:9-14. The Pharisee approached God telling him how good he is in comparison with other people. He was being self-righteous before God. But look at how the tax collector prayed.

Luke 18: 13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

14 "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Look, if we follow how Daniel prayed by responding to God's Word and by recognizing His own weakness, it will show in "What we will pray for."

WHAT DID DANIEL PRAY ABOUT?

I. HE CONFESSED

⁴ I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed:

Etymology : confessed – “yadah” - to shoot

Misconception about confession : akala natin kino-confess lang natin kasalanan natin
Real Meaning : agreeing “yadah” – lining it up with God.

What did Daniel confess about?

a.) **He confessed on who God is .**

⁴ I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed:

"O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with all who love him and obey his commands,

⁷ "Lord, you are righteous, ...

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 upon us, for the LORD our God is righteous in everything he does; yet we have not obeyed him.

¹⁵ "Now, O Lord our God, who brought your people out of Egypt with a mighty hand and who made for yourself a name that endures to this day, we have sinned, we have done wrong. ¹⁶ O Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts,...

Things to notice :

- a.1. He started the prayer with confessing on who God is.
- a.2. All throughout the prayer he confesses on who God is.

Application :

1. The focus of prayer is God.
2. It is not us...

That's why Daniel said, *v.18 ...We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy.*

Ulitin ko uli : James McDonald's school of prayer

Elementary : Lord give me

High School : Lord give me because I deserve it

College : Lord give me because...

Graduate School : Lord, I don't deserve anything.

b.) He confessed on who they are

1. He admitted their wrong actions

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 fathers, and to all the people of the land. (NIV)

⁵We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments:

⁶Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. (KJV)

Etymology :

b.1. **Sinned** - Hebrew "chatah" Greek "hamartema" - missed the goal

b.2. **Done wrong** - KJV iniquity – "avah" - to distort; to pervert

Example : We've perverted the design of God for marriage, for life and etc.

Personal Application : How do we do this? When we rationalize our sins...

Wise Wife : When you say sorry, don't explain anymore...

b.3. **Been wicked** – "rasha" done wickedly "premeditated evil"

Personal Application : There's no such thing as sinasadyang "adultery"...oops napaliko ako sa motel e.

b.4. **Rebelled** – "marad" to defy authority

Definition : Reserving for myself the right to make final decision. *Isaiah 65:2*

Personal Application ; How do we rebel? Ito ang gusto ko e (without even thinking about what God would say or how it would affect the people around them)

b.4. turned away – “cuwr” – departed,

Notice how even the church have departed from God's commands and laws – we have made homosexuality and premarital sex not as sin. We have seen abortion as ok. We have made the money, work as no.1 in our lives.

That's why the Greek word for repentance is “metanoia”, which means a changing of mind....

Question : Why did they fall into sin?

⁶ We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.

In short, they did not listen and believe in God's word.

2. He admitted God's right action

Read Daniel 9: ⁷ "Lord, you are righteous, but this day we are covered with shame—the men of Judah and people of Jerusalem and all Israel, both near and far, in all the countries where you have scattered us because of our unfaithfulness to you. ⁸ O LORD, we and our kings, our princes and our fathers are covered with shame because we have sinned against you. ⁹ The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him; ¹⁰ we have not obeyed the LORD our God or kept the laws he gave us through his servants the prophets. ¹¹ All Israel has transgressed your law and turned away, refusing to obey you.

"Therefore the curses and sworn judgments written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against you. ¹² You have fulfilled the words spoken against us and against our rulers by bringing upon us great disaster. Under the whole heaven nothing has ever been done like what has been done to Jerusalem. ¹³ Just as it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us, yet we have not sought the favor of the LORD our God by turning from our sins and giving attention to your truth. ¹⁴ The LORD did not hesitate to bring the disaster upon us, for the LORD our God is righteous in everything he does; yet we have not obeyed him.

Illustration : Prussian king Frederick the Great was once touring a Berlin prison. The prisoners fell on their knees before him to proclaim their innocence -- except for one man, who remained silent. Frederick called to him, "Why are you here?" "Armed robbery, Your Majesty," was the reply. "And are you guilty?" "Yes indeed, Your Majesty, I deserve my punishment." Frederick then summoned the jailer and ordered him, "Release this guilty wretch at once. I will not have him kept in this prison where he will corrupt all the fine innocent people who occupy it."

But the problem is, if we suffer the consequence of our sins, WE BLAME GOD.

Question : Do you know WHO ADAM REALLY BLAMED WHEN HE ATE THE APPLE? IT'S NOT REALLY EVE.

Answer :

Genesis 3:11-12 ¹¹ And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

¹² The man said, "The woman you put here with me...

Illustration : One evening several college students spread limburger cheese (Limburger cheese is known for its pungent odor, it is made out of a bacterium na nakikita din sa human skin that is responsible for human odor) on the upper lip of a sleeping fraternity brother. Upon awakening the young man sniffed, looked around, and said, "This room stinks!" He then walked into the hall and said, "This hall stinks!" Leaving the dormitory he exclaimed, "The whole world stinks!"

The road to salvation and fellowship with God is repentance... an admittance that we are sinners and that we have sinned against God.

Let's go back to this :

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

This is what an enemy does... correct?

But you know what? GOD HAS SENT HIS SON JESUS CHRIST TO DIES FOR US...HIS ENEMY. HIS PROVIDED JESUS CHRIST AS THE WAY FOR US TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FATHER.

Romans 5:10 For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

Evangelistic.

II. HE PETITIONED

¹⁷ "Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, O Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary. ¹⁸ Give ear, O 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 O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear and act! For your sake, O my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name."

How did he petition?

Remember earlier : The focus of prayer is God

1. He petitioned according to who God is.

Explain : Daniel (confessed) admitted that **they deserve what's happening to them because of God's righteousness** (tama lang na gawin ng Dios ito).

¹⁴ The LORD did not hesitate to bring the disaster upon us, for the LORD our God is righteous in everything he does;

That's why rebellious people say, if God is a loving God, why would He do this? No, admit that God is righteous in everything that He does... Daniel knows that and confessed that but look at what Daniel also recognized....

Let's focus our eyes on verse 16

¹⁶ O Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, turn away your anger and your wrath from Jerusalem, your city, your holy hill.

Now he's petitioning also according to God's righteousness v...16...in keeping with all your righteous acts, turn away your anger and your wrath...

What is the righteous act that Daniel is talking about?

Answer : The Lord is just but right to punish Israel but Daniel is pleading to God according to God's righteousness also **that part of God's righteousness is to show mercy,**

That's why Daniel said,

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

Illustration : Do you know that people who know God can negotiate with God?

Proof :

- Abraham for Sodom, (Genesis 18:23-33) from 50,45,30,20,10
- Moses for Israel

Prerequisite : Negotiate according to who God is. So do it with humility and for His sake.

2. He petitioned for God's glory.

v. 17-19¹⁷ "Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, O Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary. ¹⁸ Give ear, O 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 O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear and act! For your sake, O my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name."

Sample : Lord, we know You will provide for this need (not want) simply BECAUSE YOU ARE OUR FATHER AND WE ARE YOUR CHILDREN because of Your Son Jesus and people will see that you take care of Your people.

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.

Remember, that the focus of PRAYER IS GOD...THE CENTRE OF IT ALL IS JESUS!

Summary :

(Ask Rebecca to sing, then final prayer, prayer for the offering and then benediction)
Let's us remember, in praying, let us make sure that Jesus is at the center of it all.

Jesus at the Centre by Darlene Zschech

Jesus at the center of it all
Jesus at the center of it all
From beginning to the end
It will always be, it's always been You
Jesus, Jesus
Nothing else matters
Nothing in this world will do
'Cause Jesus You're the center
Everything revolves around You
Jesus You
At the center of it all
At the center of it all
Jesus be the center of my life
Jesus be the center of my life
From beginning to the end
It will always be, it's always been You
Jesus, Jesus
Nothing else matters
Nothing in this world will do
'Cause Jesus You're the center
Everything revolves around You
Jesus You
From my heart to the Heavens
Jesus be the center
It's all about You
Yes it's all about You
Jesus be the center of Your church
Jesus be the center of Your church
And every knee will bow
And every tongue shall confess You
Jesus, Jesus
Jesus, Jesus

Jesus, Jesus
Jesus, Jesus
From my heart to the Heavens
Jesus be the center
It's all about You
Yes it's all about You
It's all about You, all about You, Jesus

S.G.D.