

J.J.

HOW GOD ANSWERED DANIEL

Daniel 9: 20-27

INTRODUCTION :

For the past two Sundays, we have discussed about Daniel : A Mighty Man of Prayer. We discussed How Daniel prayed, What Daniel prayed for and today we will discuss How God answered Daniel's prayer.

If you have been a Christian long enough, I'm pretty sure you have experienced lots of answered prayers from the simple ones to the unforgettable ones.

For me, one of the most memorable answered prayer is when I only said two words, "Lord, help."

Please allow me the pleasure of telling me this wonderful story of God's grace. My wife was already in the late stages of her pregnancy of our first child – Zachary. Her stomach was already bulging. We both came from work after a busy day and rode our car to go home – a very used up Ford Laser. If you are familiar with EDSA highway in the Philippines, it can get pretty stressful with traffic. While we were at the underpass in Mandaluyong, approaching SM Megamall, our car suddenly stopped going downhill the underpass. We didn't want to cause traffic so I told my wife who already had a big stomach because of the pregnancy to take the driver's seat and I will push the car from behind so we can just go by the side of the highway and see what's wrong (although, if you know me, I don't know anything about cars. I only know how to drive it.) It was easy pushing the car downhill the underpass but when it came to the uphill side, that's when I had a hard time, that my arms were already so weak and my knees were already buckling. I knew that I won't be able to push any longer. I was a new Christian then and the thing that I said to the Lord while I was pushing the car on the uphill side was, "Lord, help." Suddenly, there was this man who pushed the car with me and it seemed that the car was so light that we were even laughing while pushing it. (By the way, I don't know where he came from, remember, we were in the underpass and no pedestrian walks there, only cars) We pushed it pass Megamall to Asian Development Bank where there were three men who were walking and asked me, "What's wrong?" And I said, "The car just stopped." And lo and behold, these three men were mechanics who were about to go home. They said, they will help us and when I was about to thank the man who pushed the car with me, he was nowhere to be found.

Later, I was convinced that this was an angel sent by God to help me and my pregnant wife. And it was no coincidence that he helped push the car in the sight of three

mechanics who were walking home and who did not even hinted or asked for money for their services. It's God answering my , "Lord help." Praise the Lord.

Today, we are concluding our study of Daniel in Chapter 9. As mentioned earlier, we have finished from verses 1 – 19 and now we will see how God answered his prayer from verses 20-27

Daniel 9 : 20 While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the LORD my God for his holy hill- 21 while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice. 22 He instructed me and said to me, "Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. 23 As soon as you began to pray, an answer was given, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed.

Therefore, consider the message and understand the vision:

24 "Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.

25 "Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. 26 After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. 27 He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.

PRAY

How God answered Daniel

1. God answered Daniel swiftly.

Daniel 9 : 20 While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the LORD my God for his holy hill- 21 while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice.

I love how the Word of God said that "While" Daniel was still praying... Gabriel was already sent to answer his prayer.

The same story we have in Acts when the church was praying for Peter when he was imprisoned.

Acts 12:5 Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.

While the church were praying, little did they know that God already sent an angel to free Peter. Peter even thought he was just seeing a vision.

But look at this.

11 And when Peter had come to himself, he said, "Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people."

12 So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying

You see this again? They were praying for Peter but they never knew that their prayer was already answered. **The most important thing here is we keep on praying. The word is constant prayer** *constant prayer*

Why? It's because God has answered your prayers already once you kneel down and pray.

IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER : Even if you don't see it, God is already moving.

Caveat here : This is not a blanket promise. There is a premise for this.
e.g. Lord make me win the lotto.

Let's look at Daniel's example again in chapter 12 and why it is important to CONSTANTLY PRAY.

Daniel 10: In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a revelation was given to Daniel (who was called Belteshazzar). Its message was true and it concerned a great war. [a] The understanding of the message came to him in a vision. 2 At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. 3 I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over.

Jerusalem was already restored after Daniel 9. (Ref Ezra 7:11-28)

He was praying and fasting. And God sent another angel, to answer his prayers immediately...

10 A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. 11 He said, "Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you." And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling.

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.

Why was the angel delayed then?

13 But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.

What's twenty-one days? three weeks!

We have to remember that PRAYER IS ENGAGING IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE!!!

This is the reason why by God's grace, we are praying daily in the past 2 weeks and we will continue to pray as a church for this week.

The problem with God's people is not that they do not pray BUT THEY EASILY GIVE UP PRAYING!

That's why our Lord Jesus said when He told the parable of the persistent widow.

Luke 18: 1 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

Illustration : I heard a person say about a child of theirs who is in sin and said, "Talagang ganyan na yang anak ko wala na akong magagawa dyan..." (My child is already like that, I can't do anything about that anymore.)

IMPORTANT TO SAY : No beloved of God! You can do something about it! You pray! And when you pray, you mourn about it! You fast on it!

You know why I say, you mourn about it?

Daniel 10: 2 At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks.

Etymology : mourn "abal" bewail, lament... it's used when people are crying out loud when someone has died e.g. Jacob when he thought Joseph died.

Brother or sister : Is your husband or your wife or your parents or your children far from God? MOURN ABOUT IT!

Why? When someone CLOSE to our heart dies? What do we do? We mourn!

Brother or sister, if your child is not saved or are far away from God, THEY ARE DEAD IN TRANSGRESSION! MOURN FOR IT!

Remember : What you mourn about reveals what's important in your heart. If you are not mourning to God for an unsaved child or brother or sister or parent, then it just shows their salvation is not important to you.

Here's my question to you beloved of Christ. Do you agree that the most important thing with a person is our relationship with God? OF COURSE YES.

GOD SENT HIS SON JESUS CHRIST TO DIE ON THE CROSS SPECIFICALLY THAT WE WILL HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.

So if that's the most important thing and we see that the people closest to our hearts are far away from God, then we mourn.

You know the promise of our Lord Jesus Christ?

Matthew 5:4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

ILLUSTRATION : Look at how St. Augustine became a Christian. Augustine really lived a rebellious life. Lived with a woman not his wife and fathered a child. He was really only about pleasure, pleasure, pleasure.

But Augustine wrote in his book “Confessions” regarding his mother praying for him. The name of Augustine’s mother is Monica.

“There was only one reason, and one reason alone why I wished to remain a little longer in this life, and it was to see you,” she says to her son Augustine, “to see you become a Christian.”

Eventually, we know that Augustine received Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and became one of the pillars of the church.

Here’s what he wrote when his mother died.

“now gone from my sight, who for years had wept over me, that I might live in your [God's] sight.”

Beloved of Christ, The Bible says that *in John 3:16 “God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”* If God would send His Only Jesus Christ in order to restore our relationship and fellowship with Him or else they will perish, it means that’s how important it is to God. And if our own families, children and friends do not have that relationship or fellowship with God, isn’t it but right that our hearts mourn for them in the eyes of God.

And again what’s the promise of our Lord?

Matthew 5:4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Remember this, once you kneel down to the Lord and mourn,....GOD'S ANSWER IS ALREADY THERE BUT KEEP ON MOURNING AND PRAYING.

You might ask, Pastor, what’s the connection with mourning to Daniel, we will find out next week by God’s grace how God’s answered Daniel’s prayer specifically.

But for now, we know that when we pray, God answers our prayer immediately even if we don’t know it (although there are conditions involved and we will also learn about that next week) **THAT'S WHY WE NEED TO KEEP ON PRAYING!**

S.G.D.