

Daniel 10
When And How God Will Strengthen Me
Pastor JD Farag

DAVID: Heavenly Father, Lord, we just come before You, Lord. Draw us nearer to You each and every day, Lord. And every day we look up to You, Lord. Keep our hearts and our minds always focused on You. Walk with us daily, Lord. Continue to have Your hedge of protection upon all of us, Lord. We love You and we praise You in Jesus' name. Amen.

PASTOR JD: Jesus' name. Amen and amen. And good evening and welcome. How are you doing tonight?

[Congregation says, "Good."]

All right. That was pretty good then. We'll take it. You can be seated. Glad you're here tonight. Those of you online, we're glad that you're joining with us. *Daniel Chapter 10* tonight. Okay, I'm just going to say it. Amazing chapter. Shocking, I know. I never say that, right?

Actually, tonight, starting in *Chapter 10* — we only have three more chapters left, right? This is one of those books where — you know when you don't want — something's so good you don't want it to end. I don't want — so we're going to actually break it up into six months for the last — (Chuckling)

I can do that, you know. I won't. but actually tonight in *Chapter 10*, we begin what is essentially the prophecies that has its duration through to the end of the book. So let me try this. *Chapter 10* tonight we're going to see something very interesting here, but it sort of sets the stage for *Chapter 11*.

Spoiler alert for those of you, next week, that read ahead to stay ahead, *Chapter 11* is not among the most but the most specific prophetic book in the entirety of the Bible. In fact, I don't want to get ahead of myself here, but that's okay because *Chapter 10* is an introduction of sorts to *Chapter 11*, the prophecies in *Chapter 11* are so specific that critics have argued that there's no way that just by sheer virtue of the odds of that accuracy, pinpointing precision accuracy with these prophecies, there's no way that it could have happened exactly as it was prophesied it would happen, which has led to critics arguing that it had to be written after the fact. It's that accurate.

Now, Daniel is going to receive that vision in *Chapter 11*. It'll be a continuation into and through *Chapter 12*. But what we're going to see tonight at the end of the chapter is that

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the chapter is not really going to end. How was that for — the end of the chapter is not really how the chapter ends.

In fact, it's weird because when we get to *verse 21*, it's kind of like — you understand there were no chapter breaks in the original manuscript. So we're going to actually be talking about that on Sunday in Revelation, a very key punctuation where there's a period where it shouldn't be and a comma where it should, and vice versa.

So understand that there were no chapter breaks. This was a scroll, and it read contiguously. So we're going to end kind of on a note that doesn't end with this chapter because it kind of sets the stage for what we're going to see in *Chapter 11*.

Now, what we're going to see tonight though is Daniel being lonely, in frailty, and we're going to see repeatedly that he has no strength left in him. His strength had left him. But God, as we'll see, will strengthen him, as only He can, which is the takeaway synonymous with the title, 'When and How God Will Strengthen Me.'

That's the main takeaway. There are many we're going to see tonight. In fact, I should probably apprise you that this chapter has not only an overwhelmed prophet whose strength has left him and whom God strengthens, but we also have profound prophecy. But in some ways more interestingly, we have spiritual warfare in Satan's domain demonically. We're going to see some interesting detail that you don't really see throughout the scriptures concerning the demonic realm.

So we're really — is that enough for you? There's more, but how's that for starters just to mention a few? So interesting chapter. We're going to see a side to Daniel — if you're anything like me, and I suspect that you are, you've fallen in love with Daniel, this man of God, this faithful man of God. He's in his 80s. Some suggest his mid- to late 80s at this time.

And so we're going to pick it up in *verse 1*. But before we do let's just pray because I know that this teaching is going to speak to many who are really hurting. And you're going to identify with where Daniel is at this point. And let's just pray that God will strengthen and encourage those who are downcast.

Father, thank You for this chapter. Thank You for the details that You deem necessary to include in this chapter that didn't have to be included, but You saw fit to include them

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because You know. You know. You know our every struggle. You see our heart. You see our frailty. And yet what is man that You are even mindful of him?

Lord, we can identify with Daniel. We can relate to this weary prophet. Lord, would You in our time together in this chapter because there's so much here that I know You want us to see, will You show it to us?

And when You do and when You speak what You want us to hear and show us what You want us to see, Lord make it so clear that a fool could not err thereof because we don't want to miss anything that You have for us in this very fascinating chapter. So Lord, thank You. We're anticipating that because we prayed and asked You for this that You're going to answer this. So Lord, thank You. We ask You in Jesus' name. Amen and amen.

Verse 1. Here's our time stamp. **“In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar. [That was his Babylonian name] The message was true, but the appointed time was long. and he understood the message and had understanding of the vision. [Verse 2] I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. I no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.”**

Now you know, interesting, conspicuously absent from what we're told here is any mention of why he was mourning.

Now, whenever that happens, and it does happen quite a bit in Scripture, speculation abounds. There is no shortage of speculation as to (Coughing) — pardon me — why it is that Daniel was mourning. Some believe that maybe it was because only a few of the Israelites returned with Ezra to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple. And they were very discouraged. And so was Daniel.

Maybe it was because of the state of his beloved Jerusalem, which he would never see again, being in a heap of rubble. Maybe it was all of the above. I do know one thing. That when the Holy Spirit doesn't include the reason why and it's left open-ended like that, it's for a reason so that we don't rush to fill in the blank line. Because if we do that, we do so sometimes to our own peril.

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Because if Daniel is mourning for a reason that we don't mourn for, then we're going to dismiss the application of this to our lives. Well, I don't struggle with that. So I don't mourn over that. I don't pray and fast over that. So let's keep this Bible study moving and get to the part that does apply to me. No, it's left open-ended because this is God's way of having us fill in the blanks.

You know, there are times when you're just discouraged and downcast. And you're mourning, and your lamenting, and you're weeping. And this fast is an interesting fast because it's for three weeks. That's interesting in and of itself. By the way, this 21 days is going to come up here in a moment. And he's seeking the Lord concerning his people.

“Now [We're told, verse 4] on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, that is, the Tigris, I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, [Listen to this description] whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz! His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, [Is this sounding familiar?] and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude.”

Now if you go into Revelation — in fact, we were just there not too long ago — this is almost verbatim the description that John saw in the revelation of Jesus. So does that mean that Daniel is seeing Jesus? I am of the belief that he is.

Now there are some who believe this cannot be Jesus because we're going to read here in a little bit that there's going to be this battle in the spiritual realm which delayed the angel from coming to answer Daniel's prayer in seeking the Lord. And Jesus would not be delayed by this Prince of Persia in this spiritual battle. So it can't be Him. But this can.

Well, what about when you get to the towards the end of the chapter? That speaking of somebody else. That's an angel, a messenger. I believe this is a Christophany. What's a Christophany or a theophany? It's an appearance of Jesus Christ in the Old Testament, of which there are many, by the way. Replete throughout the Old Testament we have Jesus present there.

In fact, some — I was just thinking about this today — it was a few years ago now that we were studying through verse-by-verse the Book of Hebrews. And you remember

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Melchizedek and the order of Melchizedek? Well, some believe, and I'm starting to lean more towards this interpretation, that Melchizedek was a pre-Bethlehem appearance of Jesus Christ as the high priest. Because Abraham worshiped Him, and paid tithes to Him pre-law, by the way. This is not going to be a message on tithing. Don't worry about it. Just hold on to your purses and wallets.

But we always can know whether it's the Lord or not in the Old Testament because if it's just an angel, and they bowed down to worship them, the angels like, "Get up! Don't worship me!" Whereas if it's the Lord, they bowed down and worshipped. And the Lord doesn't say, "Get up! Don't worship me." Because that's the Lord, and they're worshiping Him. So that's how you can usually tell. Now this description cannot be anyone other than Jesus himself making himself known to Daniel.

Now, *verse 7*. **And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision; but a great terror fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves."**

Thanks a lot, guys. Boy, fair-weather friends, right? They were so terrified. This is interesting because they did not see the vision, but yet they were terrified by what they saw. So what were they terrified by what they saw? I think they saw and were terrified by Daniel's reaction, as we'll see in a moment, to the vision he just saw.

"Therefore I was left alone when I saw this great vision, [And here it is, and we're going to see this throughout] and no strength remained in me; [In other words, I was just laid bare] [And he goes on] for my vigor was turned to frailty in me, and I retained no strength. Yet [Verse 9] I heard the sound of His words; and while I heard the sound of His words I was in a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground."

Prostrate on the ground — picture this please. His strength leaves him. I think he collapses. He has nothing left in him to even give him enough strength to remain standing. I think he just falls straight down to the ground on his face, with his face to the ground. And he's apparently in this deep sleep. That's tired. This is a weary and tired, frail prophet who has no strength remaining in him.

Have you ever been in that place where, I mean, you're so weak? There's just nothing left in you. The strength has left you. I mean he says it twice. No strength remained in me, and I

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retained no strength. It's almost a redundancy. I was — a while back I was talking to my wife, you know, and saying, you know we really don't hardly argue too much anymore. (Coughing) Pardon me.

And I would like to think that it's a sign of, you know, spiritual maturity because we're growing in grace and maturing in Christ. And so you know... and besides that, I'm just such a godly husband.

[Laughter]

I don't say that. I hope you know that, right? Because if I did, I probably wouldn't be standing up here. And then she reminded me as only a wife can. But that's not why. Here's why. We just don't have it in us anymore.

We just — it's just like, you know, when you get older, you're just tired, you know? There's no more strength left. I mean when you're young, man, you got vigor and strength. We're doing this!

[Laughter]

When you get older, it's kind of like...

[Laughter]

Nah.

[Laughter]

I'm going to let that one go.

[Laughter]

When you're first married, in a million years you would never let that go. Oh yeah? Me? What about you? Now if you tried that, you'd probably be hospitalized because it would take so much out of you, and there's nothing left to take out because it's all been drained out of you.

I mean even disciplining your kids. Hey, you know the youngest child always gets the best end the deal when it comes to discipline. You know why? We're just so tired from their older siblings.

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Remember the firstborn, right? Our firstborn son reminds us of this constantly, in fact, too much. You know, you learned on me, and he's looking at his younger brother and his younger sister, going, you would have never let me get away with that. Well, there's a reason for that, son. We just don't have it in us anymore. I mean our — no more strength remains.

You know when we were younger, we would get up, and we would discipline you. Now it's kind of like pick your battles, You know it's just this — nah. It's...no. Let it go. (Chuckling) And you're just tired. You're just tired. You just don't have it in you. Well, this is Daniel.

“Suddenly, [Verse 10] [This is where it gets good] [Oh, I love this] a hand touched me which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands.”

Now watch this. He's no longer prostrate on his face on the ground. Now he has been touched by God, a messenger; this is not the Lord anymore. There's more than one here. And it's going to be evidenced, I think, here in a moment. But he's touched now, and it gets him off his face. Now he's on all fours. Now he's on hands and knees.

“And he said to me, **“O Daniel, man greatly beloved...”**

Now this is the second time we've seen this. You know sometimes when you're so down, you just need to be reminded by the Lord that you're loved. You're loved. We talked about this last week. I won't take a lot of time on it, but you know here, the man tells Daniel you're greatly loved, but the apostle John was also greatly loved, except it wasn't a man who told him that.

John told us that. (Chuckling) **“...the disciple that Jesus loved.”** What, He didn't love the other disciples? No just, you know, how we love our children. We have different relationships with our children. It's not that we love one more than the other, even though they asked. Did your kids ask you that question? Who do you love more, me or my brother? Well, it depends.

No, it's more like — and by the way, Daniel would receive the revelation/vision in the Old Testament — in fact, the *Book of Daniel* is affectionately referred to as the Old Testament *Book of Revelation*. And he was beloved and loved. And so too was John the recipient of the revelation. And he was loved.

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Here's where I'm going with this. There are those, not that God loves one more than another, but there are some that are so close and intimate with the Lord that they'll be the recipients of great revelation from the Lord, and such was the case with Daniel.

But the Lord knows that sometimes we just need to be reminded. We need to have that touch from the Lord, and we need to be reminded by the Lord that we're loved by the Lord. And I'll take a step further. Sometimes it's not even, you know, yeah, I know God loves me, but I need sometimes to be reminded that He actually still likes me. He's not mad at me.

Because you got to know that the enemy is all over you at times like this because he waits for you when you're vulnerable. And when are you the most vulnerable? When you're weak, tired, exhausted, discouraged, mourning. That's when he strikes. That's when he attacks. So here's the Lord, here's how the Lord strengthens us. He reminds us that He loves us, His hand touches, the touch from His mighty hand.

And this messenger says, **“O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you.” While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling.”**

You know when you encounter the presence of God, whether it be the Lord himself, as we see with Isaiah and the many great men and women of God, mightily used of God in the Old Testament, even Peter in the New Testament — they just — you're face to face with a holy God, and it just, I mean, this is a healthy fear and trembling, the fear of the Lord, a fear and a trembling. I mean he was trembling when he was on his hands and knees. And then this messenger says I have been sent to you, and I'm going to speak to you, so you understand. So he does stand up, but he's still trembling.

“Then he said to me, [Verse 12] “Do not fear, Daniel, [And I want you to pay particular attention to this] for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.”

Now don't get to *verse 13* yet. Not yet. I don't want us to miss something here. As soon as Daniel started to pray three weeks prior, day one. Remember last week while he was still praying, he got interrupted. You're interrupting me.

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I know. I'm here to answer the prayer.

Yeah, but I'm still praying.

He was — while he was praying. Well, now we're told that the very first day that he started to pray, he was sent. He was dispatched on that very first day. Why? Because his prayer was heard. Never imagine that when we pray, God doesn't hear our prayers.

Now we're going to see this delay and why there was this delay because this messenger, not Jesus, says, “ **But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, [The Archangel] came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.**”

This is a glimpse into the realm of the demonic. And it tells us some things about the demonic realm. First, prayer is the deciding factor, and the enemy knows it. When this messenger was dispatched to answer Daniel's prayer, Satan dispatched his demonic realm to intercept this messenger en route to answer Daniel's prayer. Let that sink in. The devil is more afraid of us than we should ever be afraid of him. Do you know that when you and I pray, Satan freaks out because he knows prayer spells his end? It's the deciding factor in his defeat.

I love how Pastor Chuck illustrated it. You've got a fist fight, two opponents, and that's all it is until one wields a knife. Now that knife is the deciding factor, and the opponent who does not have the knife will do everything he possibly can to get that knife out of the opponent's hand. Why? Because he knows the knife is the deciding factor that spells his end. It's game-over because the knife is the deciding factor. That knife is prayer in our spiritual battle.

We make much about — nothing wrong with it — but I think that we miss something in the spiritual armor in *Ephesians 6*. Because we kind of stop — you know, we got the helmet of salvation, breastplate of righteousness, belt of truth, shoes of peace, sword of the Spirit, shield of faith. But we don't we don't keep going. How do you put that armor on? And then what do you do when you're told to stand firm? You've got your armor on. Now what do you do? Pray. Pray. Pray continually, without ceasing.

Now here's Daniel praying for 21 days. Here's a question. If he would have stopped at day 20, would this messenger still have come? Yes. Another question: Why would God allow

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this delay of 21 days? God is sovereign. And we may never know the ways or the whys of God. But I will suggest one thought.

It's for our sake to persist in prayer. He was praying, and fasting, and humbling himself, and he persistently prayed for 21 days. And finally Michael came on day 21. And he was freed up to get to Daniel in answer to prayer. Spoiler alert, by the way: We get to the end — after he answers Daniel's prayer, he has to go back and finish the fight.

What's the takeaway here? Never underestimate the warfare in the demonic realm, unseen in the physical realm. Do you know that you set — you — let me reword this. When we pray, the devil trembles.

When we pray and when we persist in prayer — you know that parable? It's what actually one of my favorite parables. We've talked about it often. Where Jesus teaches about the unjust judge and the persistent widow who will not leave this guy alone. And finally he says okay, stop bugging me. I will give you justice.

Now this is in no way to paint God the Father as being perturbed and just finally giving in to our tenacity and answering our prayer just so we'll get off His back. The whole point of the parable is to persist in prayer. And if this unjust judge will answer the prayer and grant justice, how much more your heavenly Father?

In other words, if this is the only parable — I believe it's the only parable — I could be mistaken — but it's the only one where Jesus interprets it before He teaches it. He said men ought always to pray persistently. And then He goes into the parable. So if anything, the takeaway is pray continually, without ceasing, and never stop because you don't know what's going on in the spiritual realm.

The angel, the messenger the answer was dispatched as soon as you started praying. But apparently, there's been a delay because the enemy is trying to thwart what God is going to do in response. By the way, the prayer gets answers. God's delays are not God's denials. And I think there's other reasons as to the timing of this, but I think that would be maybe reading too much into it. But I think there's some significance to this 21 days.

Think about Daniel persisting in prayer and fasting. This is a different kind of fast. But he denied himself for three weeks. Man, sometimes I think if we're honest with ourselves, it's a

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full court press to get us to pray for three minutes, forget three weeks. I heard a statistic — this is many years ago — I'm sure it's worse now — having to do with pastors. I'm reluctant to share it because you're going to look at me out of the corner of your eye after I share this true statistic.

The average pastor in the United States of America — this is 20, 30 years ago — prayed on average less than one minute a day. Not me, of course; I'm a man of prayer. But when I first heard that, I thought wait, these are the pastors? Are you sure you got that right?

The pastors on average are praying less than one — first of all, how did they get those guys to admit that? Secondly, if that's what — pastors — if that's — what? No wonder. That explains everything. But what about the Christians? These are the pastors. How long are they praying?

See, here's another thing. And we'll move on. But this is important. This — Satan actually wants to preempt your praying. That's why when you set your heart to pray, a drowsiness out of nowhere descends upon you, the phone rings, the kids fight, all HE-double hockey sticks breaks loose. What do you think that is? The phone rings. Oh, wrong number. I see what's going on here. Satan will do everything and stop at nothing to keep you off your knees in prayer.

And that's why it's so hard to pray. Prayer is hard work. But prayer is heart work. We labor in prayer. I mean, if it were so easy, wouldn't we do it more? I know I brought this up on Sunday, but I don't think there's such a thing as being “prayed up.” You've heard that expression, “I'm all prayed up.”

Wow. How'd you do that? I mean, I hear guys that at the end of their lives before they go home to be with the Lord, they give an interview, and they're asked questions like, you know these seasoned saints that have been serving the Lord for 30, 40, 50 years; what would you do differently? You know what the number one answer is to that question? I would have prayed more. Man, that lays me out. You would have prayed more? I'm so convicted when I hear that. And this is a guilt trip. Prayer should be a get-to not a got-to.

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But Daniel is a good example of not only being a man of prayer but the power of prayer.

How powerful is prayer that Satan would dispatch his minions to keep this messenger from getting to Daniel to answer his prayer? I mean, hell is on fire. I mean, it's on fire anyway.

But when we pray, that can change everything and sometimes instantly, like last week, when you're still — you're not even done praying, and it gets answered. In fact, you're like, can I finish the prayer before you answer it? No. I'm going to answer it now. I love the account when Moses told, okay, stop praying. Can you imagine God telling you to stop praying? It was actually more like this. Stop praying and get moving.

I think sometimes prayer — ah, that's a whole 'nother topic for another time. Probably shouldn't have went there. Let's keep moving. *Verse 14.* Don't you hate when I do that?

“Now [*This is the messenger*] I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days...”

Oh, maybe that was his — why he was so discouraged. His days are numbered. He's an old man. But he still loves his people and is concerned for the future of his people. [*So I'm going to*] **“...make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days.”**

You know what he's speaking of? The last days. You know what days are the last days? Come on. You guys... I don't even need to — you could come up here and finish the Bible study with that one. He's talking about now and the nation Israel, God's people, your people. **“...for the vision refers to many days yet to come. [*This is yet future*] When [*Verse 15, Daniel is speaking now*] he had spoken such words to me, I turn my face toward the ground and became speechless.”**

Man, Daniel come on. What? I didn't know what to say. I think he's stunned. Why is he so stunned? Because God loves him so much. You are beloved, Daniel, O, beloved one, O, loved one. God loves you. Be encouraged, strengthen yourself, encourage yourself in the Lord like David did at Ziklag.

I don't know what to say. I'm speechless that God would care enough about me to send this messenger in the face of horrendous opposition in the demonic realm, to come to little old me and answer my prayer and hearken to the voice of my cry. And he's looking to the

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ground. That's humility. He's still standing. He's looking to the ground. And he has no words.

“And suddenly, [Verse 16] one having the likeness of the sons of men touched my lips; [Now this is somebody else, I think. Would you agree?] then I opened my mouth and spoke, saying to him who stood before me, “My lord, [That's not capitalized] [And by the way, if that was Jesus, again, he'd be on his face again] “My lord because of the vision my sorrows have overwhelmed me, and I have retained no strength.”

This is — we're going to keep hearing this. I have no strength. I am so overwhelmed. I am so beat down. I am so grieved. I am so discouraged. I have nothing left in me. This vision has overwhelmed me.

“For how can this servant of my lord talk with you, my lord? [Verse 17] As for me, [And here he says it again and he even expounds on it] no strength remains in me now, nor is any breath left in me.”

You know we have that saying, “It took my breath away.” Have you ever had something so astonishing that — well, first of all you're speechless. My wife — she prays this for me — that I would be speechless. But I tell her that's not what the Lord had in mind here. But you cannot — I mean, you — it just — you are — it is so breathtaking, and it is so astonishing because of what the Lord has revealed to you in His love for you, and it just leaves you breathless and speechless.

“Then again, the one having the likeness of a man touched me [I wonder if we're going back to this other guy] and strengthened me. And he said, “O man greatly beloved...”

That's the second time. Actually, technically it's the second time only in this chapter. It's the third time total. And listen to what he says. **“...fear not.”** Boom!

You know what will zap your strength more than anything? Fear. It takes a lot out of you, fear. Physiologically, emotionally, psychologically, especially spiritually, fear. Do you know how much energy and strength fear takes from you? And the antithesis is peace.

And that's what he says. **“Peace be to you; be strong, yes, be strong!” So when he spoke to me, I was strengthened, and said, “Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.”**

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We've got hope now! He's got a new spring to his step, and a new song on his lips, a new hope in his heart. And this messenger has really encouraged him. In those times when we just need the Lord to strengthen us, it may be that we have been wracked by fear — don't you find it interesting that when Paul says to Timothy that the Holy Spirit does not give us fear, but power, love, and a disciplined mind?

In other words, the power comes absent the fear, which the Holy Spirit never gives. The Holy Spirit will never give you fear. If you have a spirit of fear, you can be assured, on the authority of God's word, it's not God.

But see, Satan wants to put fear in your heart because he knows it'll weaken you, and it will sever that intimacy between you and the Lord. Because what is fear? It's distrust in God. Fear and worry are roommates.

We've talked a lot about worry. You know, worry: they've found — these are not Christian researchers, but research has found — don't you always love the report that starts out like that? Research has found what? That worry actually affects every system in your body, your nervous system, your digestive system, your cardiovascular system every part of your body. it even affects your hair, (Chuckling) true story, your teeth, every bone of your body. Worry.

So when the Lord admonishes us to not worry, Jesus, Matthew 6, "Do not worry." You're killing yourself literally. Worry will kill you. I think I titled a sermon one time, 'Kill Worry Before Worry Kills You' because it will. Left unchecked, worry — the digestive system — your stomach is tied up in knots. What are we going to do? And worry sends all of these chemicals rushing throughout your body, and it's killing you.

Stress: I don't want to talk about that. Well, you know when the doctor tells you need to lower your stress. Oh, why didn't you tell me sooner? I'll get right on it. How do you do that? In fact, you're just stressing me out telling me I got to lower my stress. All those stress hormones, you know, are off the charts, the same with fear, worry, anxiety. Forget — yeah, anyway... I have a Ph.D. in this so... I know this well, too well.

But Daniel was — I suppose you could say in a sanctified way he was worried for Israel. I mean, you got to know he'd gotten reports back. They'd already sent, you know, some, a

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few. A lot of them stayed. They were too comfortable in Babylon. Only a few go back. And what did they come back to? Nothing. A ruinous heap of rubble.

In fact, when Nehemiah goes to rebuild the wall, they're so discouraged. So in a way he's — there's not — there's a difference — just delineate between worry and concern. There is a difference. There's a healthy concern, rightfully so, when you're just concerned about your family, your people, your children, your wife. You're concerned. Now when you cross over into the worry arena, then that's very different.

Paul writing to the *Philippians, Chapter 4:6-8* really provides the cure for worry, so too does Jesus in *Matthew 6:19-34*. But let's talk about Paul writing to the Philippians. He says you want to worry about no thing, pray about everything, and thank God for anything, and the peace of God that transcends human understanding — it defies all human logic — will keep your heart and mind in Christ Jesus our Lord. It's the peace of God from the God of peace.

And this is not any ordinary peace. This peace is not predicated on what's happening. You know, you read throughout the Psalms, and David — I mean, you're just like, man, this is really bad.

The psalm starts out — you're just like — you know — and David, this poor, sweet psalmist of Israel, O, Lord, how long? I am in despair. I mean, this is how it ends. I'm not getting out of this. And you get to the end of the Psalm, “**...who is like unto the Lord?**”

Wait a minute. What happened? What did I miss? Your circumstances haven't changed. I mean, you started off crying out to the Lord in your pain. *Psalms 6*. How long, O Lord? I can't sleep at night. I am swimming in my tears. I am drenching my bed with my tears. I'm dying, and my bones are drying up. How long, O Lord?

You get to the end of the Psalm; he's praising the Lord. What in the world? Did God just change his circumstances? No, God changed David. He's not fearful anymore. He's not worried. He doesn't have anxiety filling his heart. He has the Lord strengthening his heart. Be very careful because it's things like fear and worry and anxiety that take our strength away. Peace is what strengthens us.

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“Then he said, [Verse 20] “Do you know why I have come to you? [Question mark] And now [He doesn't even let him answer] And now I must return to fight with the Prince of Persia [Okay, bye] and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come.”

Wait, wait, wait, wait, wait, wait, wait. Who is this Prince of Persia anyway? Well, you know, in *Ephesians 6* where Paul distinguishes between four different rankings of demons in the spiritual realm that we wrestle against. You got principalities, powers of darkness, wickedness in high places. These are different rankings like in the military.

So Satan is the prince of the power of the air, right? So if this is the Prince of Persia this would stand to reason — and again, commentators — there's much debate about this — I don't think it's Satan himself. I think it is one of these high-ranking demons, or maybe even more than one demon that has been dispatched on behalf of Persia. And why Persia and why Greece?

Because in other words, I'm going to take care of the Prince of Persia, and then I'm going to — I'm going to handle the Prince of Greece next. Why? Why those two? Oh, those are the two that are going to conquer. Remember? We're going to see this next week. I mean the detail is going to be just stunning. And that's an understatement. Stunning accuracy.

So I mean, (Struggling to find words) you got to come next week. Maybe I'll give you one more. Names like — of course, we've talked about Alexander the Great. You know the name Cleopatra? *Chapter 11*, prophesied, Daniel, Cleopatra. The Egyptians — down — I mean, these are real people and hundreds of years before they were even born Daniel is given the vision and prophecies about what they're going to do.

And guess what? It happened exactly as Daniel was told it would happen a hundred years, hundreds of years in one case before the dude was even born. I can't wait. Next week, *Chapter 11*. You got to wait. It's a week away. Can you wait? Fast and pray. There you go. The angel will get dispatched tonight. So...

“But [Verse 21] I will [And this is, again, just — this is weird] But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of truth. [And then parentheses and then it ends] [To be continued] (No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince.”

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Okay. The end. That's the end of the chapter. So how am I going to end the Bible study? It's a very good question. How about this? How about Daniel has been strengthened in the Lord by the Lord because of the Lord. And now he is about to be told in answer to his prayer, as the Lord hearkens under the voice of his cry, which was we're told, what's going to happen to my people? I am greatly concerned for them and their future.

Well, that's why I'm here, Daniel. So you be strong, be encouraged, be at peace. Don't be afraid. I'm going to tell you what's going to happen. It's going to be in the last days, but I'm going to tell you what's going to happen. But I got to go take care of this Prince of Persia. Michael's still there. Man, this is one tough demon, I guess.

And he's just waiting there probably for this messenger. I wonder if — I know it's not in the text — and we'll close. But I wonder if this “to be continued” but I wonder if this messenger said you know what? Michael's here. Take care of my light work. I'm going to get down there. I got to take care of Daniel. I got to answer his questions and concerns for Israel in the last days.

But I'll — I'll be back. (Said in 'Terminator' voice) I'll be back. And then when I'm done with you, I'm gonna — I'm gonna take care of the Prince of Greece too. **“Greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world.”**

I tell you; we have the victory. We don't fight for victory. We fight from victory. And the battle has already been won. One last thing, and then I'll have David come up. Maybe you've heard this said. I'll try not to botch it. But it's been said that prayer is where the victory is won, and ministry is just gathering the spoil.

Let me say the same thing in a different way. Prayer is where the victory is won. Everything else comes as a result of prayer. Here's a question to ask yourself before the Lord and allow the Holy Spirit to search your heart. Is there anything good in your life that came without you praying?

Let me flip it around. Everything good in your life; did it not come because you asked? James says, **“...you have not because you ask not.”**

I tremble, I guess, for lack of a better word, when I think about all of those things that I could have had had I asked and even persisted in prayer. It's not that God is trying to test us to see

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how long it's going to take for us to give up and stop praying. Because you know prayer, we say, changes things. Well, prayer changes the pray-er. In your life right now, every good and perfect gift comes from the Father above. It comes when we ask in prayer.

I wonder: Would we even have a *Chapter 10, 11, and 12* had Daniel not prayed? Maybe the chapter, the book would have ended at *Chapter 9*, which is fine, but we would have been robbed of seeing the power of prayer because a man of prayer simply prayed. And God rushed in day one as soon as he started to pray.

Think about that the next time you pray. As soon as you pray, it's like the Lord's — okay, let's go. Get down there. Watch out for that King of Persia though. He's been a problem lately. And then the Prince of Greece. Watch out for those guys. But get down there. JD asked. He dispatches them day one as soon as we start praying.

Okay. I'm done. That was the end of it. Thanks for — David, come on up. Why don't you stand up? We'll close in prayer. I mean I don't know how else to end a chapter that doesn't end. You notice that you didn't put a parenthesis on the end of that last part of *verse 21*? It's kind of like no one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince. Bye.

[Laughter]

Not even the end of the parentheses because it continues over into *Chapter 11*. Okay. Again, you have to come next week for the rest.

Father, thank You. Wow! Oh how You must love us, Lord. As a parent with a child hearkening under the voice of their cry, how much more do You hearken to the voice of our cry? When we pray, You move. When we pray, You hear. When we pray, You answer. There's no prayer You don't answer. We may not get the answer when we want, or the way we want, or how we want, but we'll we do get our answer. Sometimes we don't like the answer. Sometimes the answer is “wait.” But we do get an answer.

So Lord, thank You that You answer prayer, that You hear from on high. And thank You, Lord, for this snapshot of what goes on in the spiritual realm. I mean, it's not much, and it's probably enough and not too much because I don't think we could handle it if we really knew the warfare in the spiritual realm when we pray. But thank You at least for letting us in on this. It does open our eyes. It is eye opening.

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So Lord thank You that You give strength to the weak, that it comes from You, Your touch, Your word. Daniel hearing the words was encouraged. When we get into Your word, we're encouraged. We're encouraged by Your word, O God. Oh, that we would be men and women of prayer and men and women of Your word especially for those who are downcast. Lord, I pray that we'll be strengthened, we'll strengthen ourself in You because of You and by You. Thank You. We love You. In Jesus' name. Amen.