



## PRAYER INTENSIVE WEEK TWO

### FIVE THINGS THAT ROADBLOCK OUR PRAYER!

Daniel 10

Most of us know we need to pray more, but few of us actually pray.

Daniel 10 shows us the “other side of prayer.

??Did you know that there are angels and demons who go to battle every time you pray?

There is a battle in the heavenlies but there are also some things we bring that may hinder prayer.

Reminder: Prayer = connecting and communicating with God.

Prayer is a time for us to connect our heart with the heart of God.

**FACT: Its ok to be very organized in prayer**

Prayer room – blocking out distractions

Prayer groups - accountability

Prayer journal – see what God has done

Prayer list – so we don't forget

Prayer reminders/prompts – to bring us back to Gods presence

**FACT: If everything we prayed for happened the way we wanted it and when we wanted it, we would be very motivated to pray!** (but it doesn't work that way)(But being organized helps)

Many times prayer can be about two things: A list and a listen.

Phil 4:6-7 – “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God.”

Psalms 46:10 – “Be still, and know that I am God.”

John 10:27 – “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”

Daniel was a man of prayer. We see the evidence of his prayer life throughout the book of Daniel.

TEXT

Summary: Daniel has a dream that he received from JESUS (yes Jesus) concerning the tribulation, a future event. We know this is Jesus because of the parallel of Revelation 1:12-16. When Daniel was asleep, an angel took the place of Jesus....

These are references to non human beings. These are spiritual beings.

Our prayers are given in the natural realm but have a bearing in the spiritual realm also.

We are surrounded by angels and demons in the spiritual realm – we cannot see them.

**FACT: Spiritual beings can, at times, manifest themselves in the natural realm.**

Demons can possess someone. Only an unbeliever.

What we need to learn here is that there is always a battle going on in the spiritual realm.

### **ROADBLOCK #1 – Unseen Warfare**

But there are angels in this battle too.

Hebrews 13:2 – “Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.”

In this passage the angel told Daniel that his prayer was heard...WOW!! But because of the battle in the spiritual realm the answer was delayed.... Sounds like congress to me....

The angel said it could have been longer if the archangel Michael had not joined in the fight...

Ephesians 6:12 – “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood. But against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

We learn a lot from Daniel 10 – there are territorial demons over certain nations/countries and people.

The whole purpose is to oppress and influence for the cause of EVIL.

Explains why some countries are so dark....

Washington?

Chicago – Atlanta – California?

FACT: Prayer delayed is not prayer denied. Be persistent in praying (future topic)

\*\*PRAYER FOR LONG TERM PRAYERS

### **ROADBLOCK #2 – Unconfessed Sin**

To reignite prayer in our lives, it may be led by falling on our face at the altar in confession.

Isaiah 59:2 – “But your iniquities have separated you from God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear...”

DON'T GET MAD AT ME HERE!

God may not be listening to you.

Psalm 66:18 – “If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.”

Cherished = coddled, downplayed, minimized

??If we walk in direct disobedience to the known will of God, how can we expect God to reveal something to us when we pray to him??

Illus: a balance.... That's not the way God works – not a sliding scale.

The great news is this –

1 John 1:9 – “ if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to purify us from all unrighteousness.”

\*\*PRAYER FOR UNCONFESSED SIN – (Altar open)

### **ROADBLOCK #3 - Unforgiving Spirit**

??How do we expect forgiveness from God when we are not willing to give forgiveness??

**FACT: We must forgive.**

No exceptions – No addendums – No buts – No “you don’t understand.”

Mark 11:25 – “And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”

\*\*PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO WE STRUGGLE TO FORGIVE

### **ROADBLOCK #4 – Uncaring Attitudes**

**FACT: We must be tuned in to the needs around us.**

If we make our prayers known to God while at the same time ignoring the needs of others, we are slowing the prayers reaching the ears of God.

We must have, or develop, a caring heart and attitude to those around us.

Known (neighbors and friends)    Unknown (street kids, orphans, homeless)

Matthew 25:34-40 – “

\*\*PRAYER FOR OUR BAD ATTITUDES AND UNCARING, SELFISH SPIRIT

### **ROADBLOCK #5 – Unacceptable Motives**

??Why are you asking for what you are asking for??

What are your motives??

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

**FACT: When we make our request known to God, we should always defer to the will of God.**

1 John 5:14-15 – “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that is we ask anything according to his will, he will hear us. And if we know that he hears us – whatever we ask – we know that we have what we asked of him.” You got it

You might not even know you have it.

When we ask with pure motives, in his will – sometimes the answer is far beyond what we imagined.

Ephesians 3:20 – “ He is able to do exceedingly, abundantly more than we ask or imagine...”

FACT: Never doubt God's ability to answer your prayers.

Make sure your faith is in him.

Defer to his will

Be consistent

Accept his timing

Know that he can blow your mind!

\*\*PRAYER FOR OUR MOTIVES (PRIDEFUL SELF CENTERED PRAYERS)