

Prayer & Why It's Hard Part 3: Why Prayer is More than a Devotion!

Daniel 6:10 (NASB 2020) *Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously.*

Recap: Over the last few weeks, we have discussed why prayer can be so challenging. Prayer is a means of fellowship with God. Prayer is not merely asking for things—it is relationship and fellowship.

I. Prayer is more than a devotion.

Daniel 6:10 (NASB 2020) *Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously.*

Daniel's practice reflects obedience to God's revealed will rather than mere personal devotion. He prays consistently, deliberately, and publicly, even when prayer is forbidden—demonstrating that prayer was understood as a non-negotiable duty of covenant faithfulness, not an optional discipline.

Devotion: religious fervor; piety.

He was exiled as a teenager, would have been executed, but sought God for the interpretation of a dream, the same for not bowing and worshiping he golden image...

Daniel 3:17-18 (NASB 2020) *If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to rescue us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods nor worship the golden statue that you have set up."*

Daniel 6:16 (NASB 2020) *Then the king gave orders, and Daniel was brought in and thrown into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "Your God whom you continually serve will Himself rescue you."*

Confession and Intercession

Daniel 9:4 (NLT) *I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed: "O Lord, you are a great and awesome God! You always fulfill your covenant and keep your promises of unfailing love to those who love you and obey your commands.*

II. How is prayer represented in the NT

Acts 3:1 (NLT) *Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o'clock prayer service.*

The stated times for prayer in Judaism were (1) early in the morning, in connection with the morning sacrifice; (2) at the ninth hour of the day (about three o'clock), in connection with the evening sacrifice; and (3) at sunset.

Colossians 4:2 (NASB 2020) *Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-19 (NASB 2020) *Rejoice always. **pray without ceasing**, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit.*

Matthew 6:5-9 (NASB 2020) *And when you pray...vs. 7 And when you are praying...vs. 9 Pray, then this way:*

Ephesians 6:18 (NASB 2020) *With every prayer and request, pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be alert with all perseverance and every request for all the saints.*

Most Notable:

****Matthew 26:38 (NLT)** *He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."*

III. Prayer produced Peace and Spiritual Strength

Philippians 4:4-7 (NASB 2020) *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all people. The Lord is near. **Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and pleading with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.***

Jude 1:20 (NASB 2020) *But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,*

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 (NLT) *That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him." But it was to us that God revealed these things by His Spirit. For His Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets.*

Read article

****1 Peter 5:6-7 (NASB 2020)** Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you at the proper time, having cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares about you.

Prayer is more than a devotion; it's your lifeline!

****Acts 4:29-31 (NASB 2020)** And now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant it to Your bond-servants to speak Your word with all confidence, while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.” And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.