



the transformative power of a life built on prayer

Living in a Flat Tire Culture | PRAY FIRST

Daniel 6:10-11

We have to think proactively about our spiritual lives? We can lean into the “easy yoke” of Jesus? Or...we can ask for His help after the blow out.

“Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?” - Corrie ten Boom

Daniel's unwavering commitment to prioritize God in his life reminds us that prayer is more than a ritual. It's a vital relationship filled with constant conversation, deliberate connection, and deep communion. As we face the “flat tires” of the culture we live in, we have crucial decision: to navigate it alone or be guided by the One who knows the Way.

Daniel 6:10-11: *10Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. 11Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help.*

We live in a flat tire culture. → Bike ride → Fallen world (us +), or when we choose Jesus... **a spike strip** is thrown down!

- Daniel lived in a flat tire culture IN EXILE. His associates were jealous. → “spirit of excellence”
- How are we to navigate a flat tire culture? → We can give up...or we can go to God.

→ How are we to navigate a flat tire culture? We can compromise...or we can stay connected to Jesus!

Daniel's rhythm revealed God was his PRIORITY not his BACKUP PLAN. → PRIORITY: What does your rhythm say?

- Daniel had an everyday prayer rhythm. He didn't START praying because he was in trouble!
- GOD FIRST (Prioritize our heart in...): Pray, fast, attend church, adjust a relationship, read your Bible, stop finding your identity in your job, let God speak into your sexuality, tithe, small group. → MAKE GOD #1...& hearts engaged.
- JESUS IS A BETTER THAN A BACK PLAN: He has been there, knows what we need.

→ A backup is better than nothing...but God wants more because he knows we need Jesus...

Prayer is ultimately about RELATIONSHIP. → Conversation, Connection, Communion → Jesus wants a friendship...

- My first encounter with BG. → Have you talked with Jesus about this? → Hearing God by Dallas Willard (next week).
- APPLICATION: Conversation (prayer), connection (prayer is not the goal), & communion (STAYING connected).
- SALVATION. → Prayer: Lord, I need help. I receive your forgiveness. I choose to follow Jesus. → Prayer Team
- YOU: Reflect on your prayer life. → Prayer: Lord, what needs to change so you are first priority in my life?
- RFKC → Prayer: Lord, we pray for our Dream Teamers heading to camp, campers...LIVES CHANGED!

→ When we commune/abide in Jesus...we experience a peace that transcends ALL understanding.

→ **We can face the flats of life with Jesus or without him.**

TALK ABOUT IT - Questions to GROW through with family, friends, & myself.

1. Is prayer a steering wheel or a spare tire in my life? How has this played out in my life?
2. If prayer was a temperature gauge, how hot would my relationship with God be?
3. How would my life change if prayer guided me daily? Throughout the day?
4. Where can my prayer life grow: conversation, connection, or communion?
5. **PRAYER:** “Father, help me make prayer a regular rhythm of my life!”

QUOTES / SONGS:

- “Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?” - [Corrie ten Boom](#)

ARTICLES / BOOKS:

- [Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God](#): By Dallas Willard

SCRIPTURES: New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

- [Proverbs 18:10](#) - *The name of the Lord is a strong fortress; the godly run to him and are safe.*

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