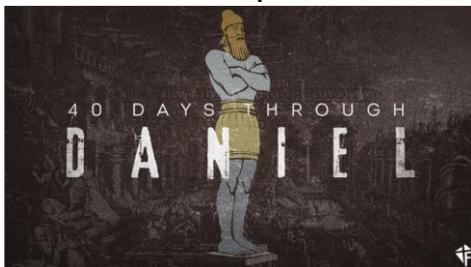


Fellowship Notes



Part 5: “How to Develop a Powerful Prayer Life”

March 28th, 2021

Daniel 9:1-19

For Sunday, April 11th:

Read and study Daniel 11:20 – 12:13 using the study notes found in the *40 Days Through Daniel* book. Don't have one? You can purchase one in Fellowship Café for a donation of \$10.

For Further Study – In Fellowship Café

Book: *We Will Not Be Silenced* by Erwin Lutzer

Book: *Transforming Prayer* by Daniel Henderson

Only when we make an absolute commitment to consistently spend significant time alone with God every day will our relationship with Christ grow in depth and breadth and not become stagnant.

Setting of Daniel 9

These events occurred around 538 B.C. Babylon fell to the Medes and Persians in 539 B.C. and Daniel tells us these events occurred in the first year of Darius' reign. The timing provided by Daniel also helps us in understanding his prayer. Since we know chapter 1 of the book opens around the year 605 B.C. when Daniel was just a young teenager, we can calculate that Daniel and all Israel had been in captivity about 69 years. So Daniel was probably just over 80 years old at this time. Daniel sought God through the reading of the Scriptures. He knew that God's people were prophesied by Jeremiah to be in captivity for a period of 70 years. Since the end of that time was nearing, Daniel, inspired by the Scriptures, then moved to prayer, asking God to fulfill his promise to his people.

Building Blocks of Powerful Prayer from the Life of Daniel

1. Powerful prayer is always fueled by the _____ (9:2). (9:2; Psalm 119:24, 99).
2. Powerful prayer is always submissive to the _____ (9:2; Psalm 40:8; Matt. 6:10; Luke 22:42).



3. Powerful prayer is always characterized by _____ (9:3; Luke 11:9; Js. 5:16).
4. Powerful prayer always includes _____ (9:4; Psalm 66:18; Matt. 6:12).
5. Powerful prayer is always focused on _____ (9:4)
6. Powerful prayer always seeks and results in _____ (9:16-19).

Growth Group Study Guide

Getting Started

Group Discussion: Share a time in your life when you really needed God's help, and you prayed, and He answered. What was the result?

Digging Deeper

1. What is the first building block to a powerful prayer life that Daniel used and why do you believe this is the best place to start?
2. What is the second building block to a powerful prayer life that Daniel employed and why is it sometimes hard for people to do this?
3. How did Daniel reflect a commitment to fervent prayer (See Dan. 9:4)? What are some reasons why and some ways we can practice fervency in prayer?
4. Why is confession such an important element in powerful prayer (see and read about the second type of prayer – Confession - in the guide below about how to have a daily quiet time with God)?
5. What have you found helpful to practice in your daily quiet time with God?
6. What's the greatest challenge to you in being consistent in your daily time with God and what is the greatest challenge you face when you are with the Lord?
7. Take time now to read the rest of the guide below and discuss what it takes for us to have a powerful time with God every day.

Wrapping Up

The 60 Day Challenge was given by Pastor Rob on Sunday morning. Pray for God's help to walk every day with Him in the next 60 days by taking time with Him through Bible reading and prayer.

Developing a Life of Holiness in Relationship with God – One Day at a Time

“Be holy, because I am holy.” 1 Peter 1:16

The biblical path to holiness flows from your relationship with God. You must make an absolute commitment to consistently spend significant time alone with God each day.

Since this is true, your focus should not be on how little time you have to give to your Lord, but on how much you can give Him. Until you make the serious commitment to this relationship through the Word and prayer, you will never grow into full maturity in Christ. God’s top priority in the life of every believer is to make them holy so He can use them for His kingdom purposes. A genuine relationship with God, like all other relationships, requires both listening and speaking, and this is where Scripture and prayer come in. The Holy Spirit uses both of these activities to grow our relationship with Christ and to grow our spiritual lives toward Christlikeness.

PART ONE: Scripture – Reading/studying Scripture is absolutely essential to both your prayer life and your daily walk with Christ.

By beginning with the Word then proceeding to prayer, you are allowing God to start and direct your conversation with Him (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Ps. 19:7-8).

Practical Guidelines for Powerful Bible Study

1. For those beginning a daily time with God, your first priority is to become familiar with the Bible by interacting with it regularly. Using a daily devotional can assist you in this, although be sure your primary focus is on what God says in His Word. Some use their daily INSTE study for this purpose. Churchwide studies that are encouraged by church leadership are also a good way to achieve this (*40 Days Through Daniel, Road to Holiness*, etc.). The important thing is that using a Bible-based devotional assists you by acting like an on-ramp to make your relationship with God the priority He deserves.
2. Consider reading Scripture to meet a need. For example, if you are struggling with fear, doing a study on that topic in the Bible will be a practical way to address a current need in your Christian life. These types of studies can be achieved using the Concordance in your Bible or by using other Bible study tools.
3. Use a daily Bible reading program that leads you through the entire Bible in a year, especially one that balances readings from both the Old and New Testaments each day.
4. Use a reliable study Bible in your daily time with God, taking the time to consider the meaning of the text and its implications for your walk with Christ. Keep your spiritual eyes open for ways to apply what you are studying.
5. Many have found that using a spiritual journal is a practical way to assist their daily time with God, by writing down key verses, insights, applications, etc. in the journal. Remember, one’s spiritual journal is the place where you record the daily activity of your time with God, key Scriptures, prayer requests, prayers, application steps, commitments, etc. It’s a record of your love relationship with God and what He is doing in your life. Remember, when the Holy Spirit reveals truth to you, He is leading you in your relationship with Christ. Christ is your life!

PART TWO: Prayer – No one’s relationship with Christ will ever rise above the level of their prayer life.

Prayer is aligning ourselves to God’s purposes (found in His Word) rather than seeking to align Him to ours. See your daily prayer time as a relationship with God and not a legalistic duty or discipline. Remember that we only learn to pray by praying.

Practical Guidelines for Powerful Prayer

1. Quality time is vitally important. Don’t shortchange the time your Lord wants to spend with you.
2. Purpose to experience a “balanced” prayer life that includes all five types of prayer.
3. Daily ask God to teach you to pray.
4. Pray with an attitude of authority and confidence through the name of Jesus.
5. Spend quality time allowing God to search you so you are freshly cleansed from every sin or hindrance.
6. Specifically ask Him to fill (control) you with His Spirit.

7. Determine to pray in genuine faith and expectancy.
8. Ask God to prevent the influence of Satan in yourself and in the subjects for which you pray.
9. Ask God for the spirit of fervency in your praying.
10. In your praying be as specific as possible.

Seek for a daily balance of these five basic types of prayer in this order:

1. **Praise & Thanksgiving** (Psalm 34:1-3; 63:3; Psalm 100) – Reverence - Showing and expressing worship toward God (seeking God’s face before seeking His hand) ...
 - a. Dedicate adequate time to heartfelt praise and worship.
 - b. Spend time thanking God for His blessings in your life.
 - c. Spend time praising God for who He is and what He is like.

2. **Confession** (Psalm 51:9-10; 1 John 1:9) – Responding to who God is. This is the key to holiness. Repentance must precede petition and intercession for God will not respond to our requests if sin is standing in the way (Psalm 66:18). Failure to repent of sin also precludes the Spirit’s filling in our life. Confess and repent of...
 - a. Sins of thoughts (mind) and attitudes (motives)
 - b. Sins of speech
 - c. Sins in relationships (Family, friends, coworkers, etc.)
 - d. Sins of commission (things you’ve done and know are sin and disapproving to God)
 - e. Sins of omission (things you haven’t done that you know you should)

Recommendation: Monthly take the time to use a biblical tool designed to thoroughly search all areas of your life with the Bible (Example: *Returning to Holiness* by Gregory Frizzell).

3. **Petition** (James 4:2; Matt. 7:7) – Requests: Part 1 - primarily focused on your needs and wants. Feel free to focus on only a couple of the following categories each day.
 - a. Prayer requests that God’s Spirit spoke to your heart about through your study of His Word.
 - b. Pray through the Beatitudes – Matthew 5:1-10
 - c. Pray through other character qualities found in Scripture, humility, wisdom, etc.

4. **Intercession** (1 Tim. 2:1-2) – Requests: Part 2 - primarily focused on the needs of others.
 - a. Lost people (by name)
 - b. Pastors, spiritual leaders, missionaries
 - c. Family needs (physical and spiritual)
 - d. Church family
 - e. City, State, Nation, leaders of each (by name)
 - f. Revival and spiritual awakening in your life, our church, our nation, our world.

5. **Meditation** (Psalm 1:2; Joshua 1:8) – Readiness - listening to God’s voice as He speaks through His Word and prayer; preparing your heart and life to fight the spiritual fight of faith each day.
 - a. Reflect on key points of your daily Scripture reading. As you progress through your time with the Lord write down key ideas and impressions.
 - b. Fill your life (mind) with the Word of God.
 - c. As you pray, be sensitive to God’s specific impressions through which He leads you to focus on various issues of concern.
 - d. End your time of meditation with a time of waiting on God. Give the Lord time to speak to your heart before you end your time together (Ps. 37:7; Isaiah 40:31). Record any of these impressions in your spiritual journal.