

PRAYER AND UNITY: Daniel's example of prayer

Daniel 9:1-19

Observing some principles in Daniel's prayer in Chap 9.

1) His prayer is God's motivated

I perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the Lord to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely seventy years. 9:1-2

Daniel was engaged with the word of God, he was engaged with history and current affairs in relation to the word of God, his prayer is prompted from a communion with God. The Holy Spirit reminded him of God's promise.

His prayer is not prompted by news headlines.

In our post Christian time prayer is been diluted to become a political rhetoric: Pray for Paris, Pray for Brussels, pray for ... pray for... buy people who have no regards for God

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."
Psalm 91:1

It doesn't say he who visit the Lord occasionally whenever convenient. There is an element of communion with God.

Prayer is not a painkiller....

It is a fuel for the Christian life, like a car that cannot go without fuel.

Prayer unites our individual spirit with God, so unity with one another becomes unavoidable.

2) His prayer is God's centred

Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. 9:3

How does he turn his face to the Lord if God is omnipresent?

Daniel made a decision not allow any distraction

Nothing should interfere with his prayer.

He wants to think about nothing else but to talk to God.

[Do we talk to God or to people listening to us when we pray?

Do we pray with the awareness of God or with awareness of the problem we pray for?]

Because our prayer is centred on God, the His Spirit is active in us through out the prayer.

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. **27** And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. Romans 8: 26-27

When we are united around the will of God our prayer becomes more powerful and it releases God's power

In the Acts of Apostles the expression "in one accord" appear regularly in connection with prayer. This is when God shows up in a more powerful way.

Renhard Bonke: The secret if his successful evangelistic ministry in Africa is Unity in prayer.

3) His prayer is God's glorifying

17 Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his pleas for mercy, and for your own sake, O Lord,^(b) make your face to shine upon your sanctuary, which is desolate. 18 O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by your name. For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. 19 O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay attention and act. Delay not, for your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people are called by your name." 9: 17 -19

Daniel's prayer aims to put things right with God; between Israel and God, between Jerusalem and God. A good deal of his prayer is repentance, a call to return to God's word, to obey him.

Then, to glorify Himself, God ordered Gabriel to come to Daniel with a decree to restore Jerusalem and Israel; a messianic plan was announced to Daniel.

When every prayer is about enthroning God, then what we see as miracle becomes a norm, because it is not about what do but what He does through us.

Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." Luke 11:1

The disciples probably compared their prayer life with Jesus' way of praying and saw something missing.

[How would it be like to compare your prayer life to Jesus?]