

“God hears our Prayers” (Daniel 10:12-19)

Daniel 10:12-19 NLT

¹² Then he [the messenger from God] said, “Don’t be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer. ¹³

But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia. ¹⁴ Now I am here to explain what will happen to your people in the future, for this vision concerns a time yet to come.”

¹⁵ While he was speaking to me, I looked down at the ground, unable to say a word. ¹⁶ Then the one who looked like a man touched my lips, and I opened my mouth and began to speak. I said to the one standing in front of me, “I am filled with anguish because of the vision I have seen, my lord, and I am very weak. ¹⁷ How can someone like me, your servant, talk to you, my lord? My strength is gone, and I can hardly breathe.”

¹⁸ Then the one who looked like a man touched me again, and I felt my strength returning. ¹⁹ “Don’t be afraid,” he said, “for you are very precious to God. Peace! Be encouraged! Be strong!” As he spoke these words to me, I suddenly felt stronger and said to him, “Please speak to me, my lord, for you have strengthened me.”

1. Spiritual Battle

The moment we start to pray, the prayer is already heard by God. God hears our prayers, and He starts to answer them.

Deuteronomy 4:7 says “For what great nation has a god as near to them as the LORD our God is near to us whenever we call on him?” This is our God!

From the moment we start to pray, God is already listening. And He will start to answer the prayers. But it doesn’t mean the situations will change immediately. God fulfills His will in His time, in His way. God tries to help us see this. But Satan and evil spirits try to hinder that. There is a battle between God’s angels and evil spirits.

Daniel started to pray. God heard the prayer. And the messenger from God tried to tell this to Daniel. But the power of darkness hindered it. The spiritual

battle continued for twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help him. So he could come to Daniel.

There was a twenty-one-day battle in the spiritual world.

For how long had Daniel been praying? For three weeks! Twenty-one days! He had no way to know what was happening in the spiritual world. But he continued to pray. Now, he understood. Through prayers, he was fighting the spiritual battle together.

From the time we start to pray, our prayers have already been heard. Then why do we continue to pray? Is it because God is too busy to remember my prayers? Is it because if I don't continue to pray and seek, someone else may cut in, and my prayer may be left till later?

From the moment we start to pray, God is already listening. Why do we continue to pray? One of the answers to this question is because through prayers we can fight the spiritual battle together with God.

“For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against wicked spirits in the heavenly realms. (Eph 6:12)”

Prayer is our spiritual battle. And we are called to do that. The battle is God's. We will have victory! But if we don't fight, there is no way to win. Our battle is prayer. So, God is calling us to pray in the Holy Spirit consistently (Eph 6:18).

2. To see ourselves

While Daniel was listening to the messenger from God, he was looking down at the ground, unable to say a word.

Then, the one who looked like a man appeared, and touched his lips, and strengthened him. Daniel told him, “How can someone like me, your servant, talk to you, my lord? My strength is gone, and I can hardly breathe.”

Daniel had been fasting and praying for three weeks. He had no energy left in his body. And when he saw the vision, his strength left him. People who were with him were afraid, hid themselves and ran away. He was left alone there. Now all he could do was fall down powerlessly before the presence of the Lord, his majesty, power and authority.

When we continue to pray, we will start to see who we really are, what we really are like.

Prayer makes us realize our weakness, foolishness and powerlessness. In prayer, we come to know we cannot help but fall down before God and pray. In addition, we will experience that if we rely on ourselves, we cannot even keep praying or remain in the Lord's presence.

3. To know God

On the other hand, in prayer we will come to know how great and mighty is the Lord. We will actually see the Lord's glory, honor and authority. And we will feel how awesome and fearful it is to speak to the Lord.

Then the one who looked like a man touched me again, and I felt my strength returning. "Don't be afraid," he said, "for you are very precious to God. Greatly beloved. Peace! Be encouraged! Be strong!" (v.18-19)

Until we truly come to know our weakness, brokenness and powerlessness, and admit and confess this, we cannot receive God's power. Until then, on the surface we may seek God's power, but actually we think we can do things by ourselves. We may think we stand by God's power, but actually may be relying on ourselves. Prayer is a process to know our own weakness, admit it, and empty ourselves out before God, and receive His power. And then we are led to the next station.

Through prayers, we come to know what God is like, and who "I am" to Him.

We have a good theology. We have a lot of sound Bible knowledge. But having the right knowledge about God and knowing God through experiences are two different things.

Prayer unpacks our weaknesses and powerlessness. On the other hand, prayer also shows God's greatness and mightiness. In our prayers, we draw near to God. And in our prayers, God reveals Himself. "Come near to God and he will come near to you. (James 4:8)" In prayers, we will be actually led into God's glory, majesty, and honor.

And like prophet Isaiah, we become so fearful when we see the glory of God (Is 6:5).

And here the Lord speaks to us personally: “Don’t be afraid, for you are very precious to Me. Greatly beloved. Peace! Be encouraged! Be strong!”

How wonderful! What a graceful experience! The Lord of glory specially loves you, who is full of weaknesses. The king of kings says to you, who is full of brokenness, “You are very precious to Me. Greatly loved.” You can’t believe this by just hearing this once. As you pray to the Lord, fellowship with Him, and spend time with Him, you gradually understand what he says is true.

It’s “Experiencing the Life, Changing Lives.” It’s not about your experiences or what others say about you. This great Lord says to you, “You are very precious to me.” As you are in his love, you don’t have to be afraid. As he who loves you is with you, you have peace. As you are loved by him, you have strength.

4. Speak to me

“Don’t be afraid,” he said, “for you are very precious to God. Peace! Be encouraged! Be strong!” As he spoke these words to me, I suddenly felt stronger and said to him, “Please speak to me, my lord, for you have strengthened me.” (v.19)

“Please speak to me, my lord.”

The Lord has been listening to our prayers, from the time we started to pray. And the Lord of glory, the great Lord is now here with us. And he wants to speak to us, you and me.

Now let’s quiet ourselves before the Lord for some time and hear from Him. Forget about the people next to you, and just spend time with the Lord personally.

What is He trying to speak to you right now? Listen to the Lord. And how do you respond to Him?

You will find a piece of paper like this in your bulletin. There, please write down what the Lord has spoken to you and how you responded. This is not to submit. It’s just between you and the Lord.

Let’s have a quiet time before the Lord for a little while.