

STANDING STRONG

Sunday, September 30, 2018
10:30 AM

In Daniel Chapter 1 we talked about Eroding Foundations

1. Internal Desires
2. The Flow of Cultural Pressure
3. Carnal Christianity
4. Fear of Failure
5. Cost Compromises

In Chapter 2 we said we need to Look to God

1. For Hope
2. For Answers
3. For Wisdom
4. For Strength
5. In All Seasons and All Circumstances

In Chapter 3 we saw that Stand Strong mean's Not Bowing Down

1. Don't Bow Down... No matter how BIG the ISSUES may seem
2. Don't Bow Down... No matter how POWERFUL the VOICES may be
3. Don't Bow Down... No matter how LOUD the NOISES may be
4. Don't Bow Down... No matter how VAST the MAJORITY may be
5. Don't Bow Down... No matter how HARSH the CONSEQUENCES can Be
6. Don't Bow Down... No matter how BEAUTIFUL the IMAGE may seem
7. Don't Bow Down... No matter how unCERTAIN DELIVERANCE may seem

Chapter 4 taught us to have a greater perspective of Humility

1. towards God,
2. towards ourselves,
3. and toward others

Daniel chapter 5 Teaches us the importance of living a life of Repentance

1. Awareness of Sin and its consequences
2. A Remorse for Sin
3. A Confession of your sin
4. A Desire to leave sin behind
5. A Hunger for more of Jesus
6. Acceptance of the work Christ has done for us
7. A growing hatred of sin and love of Christ

Daniel Chapter 6

1. Trust God when things are changing around you
2. Trust God when those around you seek to tear you down
3. Trust God when things begin to get crazy
4. Trust God and keep on praying
5. Trust God when things go from crazy to horrible
6. Trust God even when your fate seems sealed
7. Trust God and let Him deal with your enemies

Daniel 7-8 - Understanding God's Plan

In order to gain that understanding there are four important principles we need to discuss

1. Relationship Required
2. Receiving Revelation
3. Repeated Reexamination
4. Resist Reinterpretation

Daniel Chapter 9 - Standing Strong Through Prayer

Daniel 9 New International Version (NIV)

Daniel's Prayer

9 In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes[[a](#)] (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian[[b](#)] kingdom— **2** in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the Lord given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. **3** So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.

4 I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed:

“Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, **5** we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. **6** We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our ancestors, and to all the people of the land.

7 “Lord, you are righteous, but this day we are covered with shame—the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, both near and far, in all the countries where you have scattered us because of our unfaithfulness to you. **8** We and our kings, our princes and our ancestors are covered with shame, Lord, because we have sinned against you. **9** The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him; **10** we have not obeyed the Lord our God or kept the laws he gave us through his servants the prophets. **11** All Israel has transgressed your law and turned away, refusing to obey you.

“Therefore the curses and sworn judgments written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against you. **12** You have fulfilled the words spoken against us and against our rulers by bringing on us great disaster. Under the whole heaven nothing has ever been done like what has been done to Jerusalem. **13** Just as it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come on us, yet we have not sought the favor of the Lord our God by turning from our sins and giving attention to your truth. **14** The Lord did not hesitate to bring the disaster on us, for the Lord our God is righteous in everything he does; yet we have not obeyed him.

15 “Now, Lord our God, who brought your people out of Egypt with a mighty hand and who made for yourself a name that endures to this day, we have sinned, we have done wrong. **16** Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, turn away your anger and your wrath from Jerusalem, your city, your holy hill. Our sins and the iniquities of our ancestors have made Jerusalem and your people an object of scorn to all those around us.

17 “Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary. **18** Give ear, our God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. **19** Lord, listen! Lord, forgive! Lord, hear and act! For your sake, my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name.”

The Seventy “Sevens”

20 While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the Lord my God for his holy hill— **21** while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice. **22** He instructed me and said to me, “Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. **23** As soon as you began to pray, a word went out, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. Therefore, consider the word and understand the vision:

24 “Seventy ‘sevens’^[c] are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish^[d] transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place.^[e]

25 “Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One,^[f] the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’ It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.

26 After the sixty-two ‘sevens,’ the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing.^[g] The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. **27** He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’^[h] In the middle of the ‘seven’^[i] he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple^[j] he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.^[k]”^[l]

Let's take a look at 7 things Daniel Chapter 9 teaches us about prayer.

Pray with...

1. Penitence

pen·i·tence

'penitəns/

noun

the action of feeling or showing sorrow and regret for having done wrong; repentance.

"a public display of penitence"

Daniel 9:3-11,15-16, 20 New International Version (NIV)

3 So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.

4 I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed:

“Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, **5** we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. **6** We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our ancestors, and to all the people of the land.

7 “Lord, you are righteous, but this day we are covered with shame—the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, both near and far, in all the countries where you have scattered us because of our unfaithfulness to you. **8** We and our kings, our princes and our ancestors are covered with shame, Lord, because we have sinned against you. **9** The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him; **10** we have not obeyed the Lord our God or kept the laws he gave us through his servants the prophets. **11** All Israel has transgressed your law and turned away, refusing to obey you.

“Therefore the curses and sworn judgments written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against you.

15 “Now, Lord our God, who brought your people out of Egypt with a mighty hand and who made for yourself a name that endures to this day, we have sinned, we have done wrong. **16** Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, turn away your anger and your wrath from Jerusalem, your city, your holy hill. Our sins and the iniquities of our ancestors have made Jerusalem and your people an object of scorn to all those around us

The Seventy “Sevens”

20 While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the Lord my God for his holy hill—

Matthew 6:9 New International Version (NIV)

9 “This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

The fact is there are things that hinder our prayers

- Unforgiveness

Matthew 6:12 New International Version (NIV)

12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

- Sin, mistreatment of our wives...

But God says...

2 Chronicles 7:14 New International Version (NIV)

14 if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

2. Perspective

Daniel 9:1-2 New International Version (NIV)

Daniel’s Prayer

9 In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes^[a] (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian^[b] kingdom— **2** in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the Lord given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years.

Matthew 6:10 New International Version (NIV)

10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

We've got to quit praying our plan and start praying to understand the Master's plan

We are discouraged because we are wrestling with God in an attempt to persuade Him to cause our prayers to come into being. Rather we should be fighting to understand God's will and then pray it into the reality of our existence

Matthew 26:39 New International Version (NIV)

39 Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

John 14:14 New International Version (NIV)

14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

3. Purpose

Daniel 9:17-19 New International Version (NIV)

17 "Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary. **18** Give ear, our God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. **19** Lord, listen! Lord, forgive! Lord, hear and act! For your sake, my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name."

Matthew 6:11-13 New International Version (NIV)

11 **Give** us today our daily bread. **12** And **forgive** us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. **13** And **lead** us not into temptation, but **deliver** us from the evil one.'

James 4:2 New International Version (NIV)

2 ...You do not have because you do not ask God.

Luke 18:41 New International Version (NIV)

41 "What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord, I want to see," he replied.

4. Power

Daniel 9:20-23 New International Version (NIV)

The Seventy “Sevens”

20 While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the Lord my God for his holy hill— **21** while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice. **22** He instructed me and said to me, “Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. **23** As soon as you began to pray, a word went out, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. Therefore, consider the word and understand the vision:

Matthew 6:13 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

13 ‘And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from [\[a\]](#)evil. [\[b\]](#)[For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]’

James 5:16-18 New International Version (NIV)

16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. **17** Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. **18** Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

The power of prayer is not the result of the person praying. Rather, the power resides in the God who is being prayed to. [1 John 5:14-15](#) tells us, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of him."

Romans 8:26-27 New International Version (NIV)

26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. **27** And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.

Matthew 16:19 New International Version (NIV)

19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be[a] bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be[b] loosed in heaven.”

5. Passion

Daniel 9:3 New International Version (NIV)

3 So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.

"...True prayer is measured by weight, not by length. A single groan before God may have more fullness of prayer in it than a fine oration of great length." C. H. Spurgeon

Whether long and loud or quiet and short, there should be a passion, a fervency, an earnestness about our prayer

6. Persistence

Daniel 9:23 New International Version (NIV)

23 As soon as you began to pray, a word went out, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. Therefore, consider the word and understand the vision:

Luke 11:9-10 New Living Translation (NLT)

9 “And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.
10 For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

“Persistent praying never faints or grows weary. It is never discouraged. It never yields to cowardice, but is lifted up and sustained by a hope that knows no despair and a faith that will not let go. Persistent praying has patience to wait and strength to continue. It never prepares itself to quit praying, and it refuses to get up from its knees until an answer is received.” E. M. Bounds

7. Patience

Daniel 9:24-27 New International Version (NIV)

24 “Seventy ‘sevens’^[a] are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish^[b] transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place.^[c]

25 “Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One,^[d] the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’ It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. **26** After the sixty-two ‘sevens,’ the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing.^[e] The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. **27** He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’^[f] In the middle of the ‘seven’^[g] he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple^[h] he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.^[i]”^[j]

Luke 18:1 New International Version (NIV)

The Parable of the Persistent Widow

18 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

Some of the prayers we pray will be answered immediately, some will be answered in our life time. Others will find their completion long after we are gone from this life.

"The prayer power has never been tried to its full capacity. If we want to see mighty wonders of divine power and grace wrought in the place of weakness, failure and disappointment, let us answer God's standing challenge, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not!" (J. Hudson Taylor)