



God's Hearing, Forgiveness, and Healing Pt 3: Prayer that Moves Heaven!

January 15, 2023

Holy Text: 2 Chronicles 7:14, Daniel 9:1-23

Series Review:

1. We believe that there will be no lasting healing of the land without repentance; no Revival without a heart to return to the Scriptures (Reformation).
2. We believe 2 Chr 7:14 (and verses like it) have some NT applicability because of the Great Commission and the power of the Gospel to transform nations! (Matt 28:18-20)
3. Although we deny salvation by works, we believe these promises for practical blessing and restoration (and those like them) are Conditional upon obedience.

Humility Review:

1. Pride can be defined as *"Inordinate self-esteem; an unreasonable conceit of one's own superiority in talents, beauty, wealth, accomplishments, rank or elevation in office, which manifests itself in lofty airs, distance, reserve, and often in contempt of others."*
2. Humility can be defined as *"freedom from pride and arrogance; humbleness of mind; a modest estimate of one's own worth. In theology, humility consists in lowliness of mind; a deep sense of one's own unworthiness in the sight of God, self-abasement, penitence for sin, and submission to the divine will."*¹
3. Next to love, humility might be the greatest (or even the fount) of all spiritual virtues.
4. God hates pride and resists the prideful!

James 4:6-7 (KJV) *But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

5. In our Text, the phrase "shall humble themselves" means *"to bend the knee; hence to humiliate, vanquish: - bring down (low), into subjection, under, humble (self), subdue."*²
6. Knowing is one thing...doing is quite another. Will we bow the knee before God and His holy commands?
7. Review the 12 Areas of needed Reformation from the message [Humility that Brings Healing!](#)

Today's Focus: Prayer

2 Chronicles 7:14 (KJV) *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, **and pray**, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

1. What is prayer?
 - Prayer is simply communication with God. It can involve praise and adoration, intimate communing, thanksgiving, confession, reflection, vows, supplication, intercession, and prayers for healing, deliverance, and transformation.
 - Prayer is an extremely vital but often neglected part of our walk with Christ both as individuals and as a corporate body. This should not be so! Jesus said:

¹ Webster 1828 Dictionary

² Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionary

Matthew 21:13 (KJV) ...It is written, *My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.*

- “There is an undeniable call in Scripture for the people of God to *always be praying*. We are to live prayer-filled lives, individually and corporately. Prayer should be the heartbeat of our walk with God in Christ, and empower our love for others, study of Scripture, obedience to the precepts of God, and service to His body the Church.”³
- 2. “And pray” in our text comes from the Hebrew *pâlal*, which means “A primitive root; to *judge* (officially or mentally); by extension to *intercede, pray*: - intreat, judge (-ment), (make) pray (-er, -ing), make supplication.”⁴ Also, “to pray, intervene, mediate, judge.”⁵
- 3. It carries the ideas of mental judgment, mediation/intercession and supplication. In other words, for healing to occur God’s people must not only be penitent, they must:
 - Understand their wrong (judge themselves)
 - Be willing to intercede on behalf of one another
 - Supplicate. The Webster 1828 defines *Supplication* as: 1) Entreaty; humble and earnest prayer in worship. In all our supplications to the Father of mercies, let us remember a world lying in ignorance and wickedness. 2) Petition; an earnest request.
- 4. Of special note, *supplication* “means “a seeking or petitioning, an asking, an entreating” because there is a severe “want, need, or lack.” *Supplication* carries a “begging” (if you will) connotation. Paul isn’t trying to be misunderstood here as both words (prayer and supplication) are essentially saying the same thing. *Supplication* implies praying from the heart, praying with the “inner man,” praying with passion, and indeed, praying in the Spirit. It suggests a deep longing for God to hear and move, and cry from the soul, and truthful understanding of one’s lowly and humble place before Almighty God, and a recognition of one’s depravity and need!⁶
- 5. We are given power examples OF and commands TO pray!

Luke 18:1 (KJV) And he spake a parable unto them to this end, **that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;**

Acts 2:42 (KJV) And they **continued stedfastly** in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, **and in prayers.**

Acts 4:31 (KJV) And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. (Suggested Review: [Five Places of Prayer in a Healthy Church](#))

Romans 12:12 (KJV) Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; **continuing instant in prayer;**

³ [The Power of Corporate Supplication](#), June 2017

⁴ Strong’s Hebrew and Greek Dictionary

⁵ Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary

⁶ [The Power of Corporate Supplication](#), June 2017

Ephesians 6:10-18 (KJV) Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. **11** Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. **12** For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. **13** Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. **14** Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; **15** And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; **16** Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. **17** And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: **18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;**

Philippians 4:6-7 (KJV) Be careful for nothing; **but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.** **7** And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Colossians 4:2 (KJV) Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 (KJV) Pray without ceasing. **18** In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

A Short Exposition of Daniel's Prayer in Daniel 9:1-23

- There are many wonderful prayers in scripture. For example who can forget Paul's prayer for the unity of Jew and gentile in Ephesians chapter 3:14-21, or our LORD's High Priestly prayer in John 17, or even our LORD's instructions on how we should pray in what is known as "The LORD's Prayer?" (Matt 6:9-15: [Learning from the LORD's Prayer](#))
- I like to present to you some thoughts from a prayer offered to God for both individual national healing. It is a prayer uttered by man who had seen several kingdoms come and go (he could have been in his 80s when we prayed it). It is a prayer uttered in the utmost humility. It is also a prayer that moved heaven.

1. The prayer was offered during the reign of Darius, near the end of Israel's 70-year captivity in Babylon (also called Chaldea). Daniel was carried away as a young man (approx. 606 BC, and this chapter is set approx. 537 BC...69 years later). (vv.1-2)
2. Also note that Daniel's study of Scripture prompted his prayer and increase his faith! F.B. Meyer said:

What a prayer is this! In many respects it is a model for us all. It was based on the divine Word. The fact that God had promised to restore the desolations of Jerusalem after seventy years, did not restrain, but prompted and inspired Daniel's prayers. God's promises are not independent of our faith, but await our appropriation. The blank checks are drawn and signed in our favor, but they must be presented at the bank for payment.

3. Daniel, still mourning for his people, set his face to seek the LORD. (v3) Seeking the LORD denotes a passionate focus and intense desire to "search out" or be heard. Daniel did this without distraction and with humility (fasting, sackcloth, and ashes).

4. Daniel starts by acknowledging and confessing God's greatness, deserving of fear (dreadfulness), and faithfulness! (v.4)
5. Then he begins to confess the reason for his people's current state (captivity): their sin. (v.5-6) Daniel's words expressed his understanding of God's anger and disappointment.

- We have sinned
- Committed iniquity
- Done wickedly
- Have rebelled
- Departing from Thy precepts and judgments
- Neither have we hearkened

Daniel places the responsibility for Israel's predicament upon Israel! God sent prophets; God's people refused to hear!

6. Note the the additional consequence: Confusion! ("Open shame," ESV) (vv.7-8)
 - Contrasted with the purity and brightness of God's righteousness is the shame and confusion of God's rebellious children. Note that station and location do not matter!
 - The connotation here is how obvious God's displeasure is to Judah and to all who look upon the captured and beleaguered nation. Once so prosperous and mighty...now defeated!
 - "LORD, why are we like this? Why are we defeated? Why are we a laughing stock? Where is God's deliverance?"
7. Daniel humbly called on God for mercy... (v9a)
8. ...While quickly admitting such mercy is not deserved! Judah was getting exactly what God said they would if they rebelled against Him. (v.9b-14)
 - Read Lev 26:14-46 and Deut 28:15-68 to see what God said in the "Law of Moses."
9. Daniel reminds God is His past love and deliverance (Egypt), and begs and pleads for the same! Who prays like this anymore? Again, the language is indicative of a humble and desperate heart... (vv15-19)

- "Oh Lord our God"
- "A mighty hand"
- "According to Thy righteousness"
- "I beseech Thee"
- "Let thine anger and fury be turned away"
- "Jerusalem and Thy people"
- "Oh our God, hear the prayer of Thy servant"
- "Cause Thy face to shine upon Thy sanctuary"
- "For the Lord's sake"

Listen to his humble and heartfelt close:

Daniel 9:18-19 (KJV) *O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name: for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy great mercies. 19 O Lord,*

hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name.

10. So Daniel prayed audibly. He confessed his sin and those of his people. He “presented” his supplications before God, implying effort, time, intentionality, and earnestness. (v.20)
11. Gabriel, apparently, was “caused” to fly swiftly to Daniel. His mission was to give Daniel insight and understanding. (v.21-22)
12. Gabriel makes a statement in verse 23 that should get our attention.
 - The KJV says that at the beginning of Daniel’s supplications, “the commandment came forth.”
 - ESV: “*At the beginning of your pleas for mercy a word went out, and I have come to tell it to you, for you are greatly loved. Therefore consider the word and understand the vision.*”
 - Of course, we aren’t saying that an angel will come an answer our prayers if we pray like Daniel, nor do we believe that such praying will cause our Sovereign God to act outside His holy will.
 - But consider friends, that this mighty angel was commanded to move at the prayers of a man! What could happen if we sincerely prayed this way as individuals AND as a Church? Might we see increase healing in the land? Is this possible?

Applications

1. We are commanded to pray. Let us be more diligent to do so!
2. Let us pray with more humility and in a manner more like Daniel.
3. As we pray, let us realize that our rebellion is the cause of our confusion.
4. May we establish/reestablish patterns of corporate prayer in our homes, and in our church.
5. May we pray in faith, trusting the God who can do all things!

Amen!