

Barriers of Prayer

- Business of Life—micro wave society
- Climate Humanism
- Confusion about Answers
- Spiritual Warfare
- Our prayer plays a part in God's work in the world (Matthew 24)

Problem

- Captive to a Godless Focus
 - We think like the way the world thinks (prosperity, ease, self)
- Guilty Ashamed—we do not look like we should
 - But we are called to be different to be Aliens and Exiles (1 Peter 2:11)—living on the brink of eternity with counter-cultural values, displaying behaviors of love and justice, risk-taking service—showing that our citizenship is in Heaven
- By Word Amongst the Nation
 - Object of scorn, the world laughs and mocks God because of us

Prayer Lessons from Daniel

- Simulated by Word of God
- Shaped by Character of God (*Hessed*)
 - Begins with Adorations—Worship
 - Leads to Confession—Look at Holiness of God
 - Thanksgiving
 - Supplications
- Seeks the Glory of God

4 Ways to Pray

- Go to the Bible—pray from the Bible, let the Bible direct your prayers
- Confess Sin—recognize sin and call it what it is—rebellion, disobedience, treachery, wrong—be remorseful, not just admit sin but admit that we have offended the holiness and glory of God—agree with God (stand in the shoes of others/one with others—incarnational)
- Remember Past Mercies—God never change—if he saved before, he will save again?
- Appeal to God's Zeal for the glory of His Name, pray for the glory of God—we are to be known by his name—have a zeal for his name
- 5 Sola's of reformation—(Scripture Alone, Faith Alone, Christ Alone, Grace Alone, Glory to God Alone) Not to us, but to thy name be glory

- Why Daniel Prays
- How He Prays
 - Preparation (Bible—looking for will of God, knows love of God—yet seeks to know the will of God)—
Not separate Bible reading and prayer
 - God’s purposes worked out in spite/because of us-put self in position to be included in will of God, God uses us
 - Turn face towards God, Give God my attention, confidence, remember who he is, recognize who he is—be humble, note who we are-sack cloth—reminds us truths about God and ourselves
 - Planning—sins separates us from God—so confession—confession of my sin and confession of nature of God—God is right in his judgments—Recognize what we have done, who God is (holy, just, pure, righteous) and his character (without “but”)
 - God not interested in list of our sins, he knows what he wants is for us to have the same attitude, heart and mind toward sin as he does—seeks favor with God asks for mercy.
 - Identify with people—pray as if in their shoes
 - Concentration— seeks the glory of God—motive is God’s glory, concern for God’s name
 - What are we seeking—for ourselves or for God—
- What God Answers

- Cry-How long Lord (especially after ch. 8/we cry how long Lord)
- People of the Book—our means of contact and understanding of God is scripture
- Daniel to God—we have sinned—not point finger includes himself— we not better than
- Not—we have changed—or I am good—no—prays on bases of who God is—for God's sake, honor of his name
- God focused, God centered
- Daniel—your focus is too small-more than return from this exile—not 70 years but 70 x 7—mountains beyond this one—more to come

God's 6 Historical Outcomes Accomplished in Christ still to be fully Consummated

- Finish Transgression (Rebellion and Self-Assertion)
- But an end to Sin (All Wrong)
- Atonement for wickedness (Forgiving sin without being untrue to His own righteousness—what prayer at its heart is all about)
- Bring everlasting Righteousness
- Seal up Vision and Prophecy (Accomplishing all that the vision and prophecies have proclaimed—authenticate)
- Anoint the Most Holy

Major Themes of 7-12

- the horror of human evil, particularly as it is concentrated in the state
- the announcement of a specific time of deliverance
- repentance that leads to deliverance
- the revelation that a cosmic war stands behind human conflict
- judgment as certain for those who resist God and oppress his people
- the equally certain truth that God's people, downtrodden in the present, will experience new life in the fullest sense.