

The Heart of Prayer

Daniel 9:1-19

Introduction:

- Christians are to be people of prayer (Matt 7:7; I Thess 5:17)
 1. Yet some make prayer about words (repetition, eloquence)
 2. Do you want your prayers to be genuine and effective?
- Daniel 9 teaches us about the heart of prayer

Know God's Word _____ to Discover God's Heart (1-4)

- Daniel was s_____ the word of the Lord to Jeremiah
 1. Daniel dates this study time as the f_____ year of Darius, the Mede (the same Darius that reluctantly threw him into the lion's den) – 538 B.C.
 2. Jeremiah's ministry spanned a _____ year period (627-586 B.C.)
 - a. Jeremiah sent a letter to all those who had been e_____ by Nebuchadnezzar in 598/597 B.C. (Jer 29)
 - b. Jeremiah wrote all his prophecies in a b_____ (Jer 30:2)
 3. Daniel either was just studying the letter of Jer 29 or had a copy of the entire book of Jeremiah
 - a. He noted the number of years God's judgment against Judah (southern Israel), would last - _____ years (Jer 25:8-12; 29:10-14)
 - b. He c_____ when the 70 years would be fulfilled (the judgment began in 605 B.C. when Daniel was exiled to Babylon – Dan 1:1-6)
 - c. He read about God's heart in Jer 29:10-14: God delights
 - ♦ Not in c_____ but blessing
 - ♦ Not in destruction but restoration
 - ♦ Not in e_____ but deliverance
 - d. At the time of this prayer Jerusalem was empty of all inhabitants, her w_____ were broken down and her t_____ was completely destroyed (2 Chr 36:17-21)
- Daniel anticipated the end of this judgment and p_____ God for:
 1. Being great and a _____
 2. Being faithful to His c_____
- The heart of prayer begins with getting to know God's word
 1. Don't take the privilege of having God's word in our hands for granted
 - a. R_____ it
 - b. S_____ it
 - c. D_____ it
 2. Get your understanding of God from His word NOT from:
 - a. Ex_____ (e.g. one might conclude that if tragedy happens God does not care or God is punishing but this was not so with Job. God will communicate if He is punishing as He did so with Judah).
 - b. Tr_____ - you might be surprised the things you believe about God that are not in His word
 3. Come to God's word expecting to meet Him

Adjust to God's W_____ by Aligning Your Heart (5-15)

● Daniel c_____ the sins of Judah

1. They had sinned, disobeying God's c_____ (v. 5) – they had adopted pagan rituals that gave honor to Baal (Jer 9:14)
2. They had not l_____ to God's prophets (v. 6)
3. They had not heeded the warnings in the Law of Moses of c_____ on those persisting in disobedience while living in the promised land (Deut 28:15-37)

● Daniel rejoices in God's compassion and f_____ (v. 9)

● God's compassion and forgiveness

1. Is not a l_____ to sin (you always lose by sinning)
2. Should stir us to l_____ Him with our whole heart (you always win by loving God – Jn 10:10; 2 Chr 16:9)

● As you read God's word adjust your heart to His heart

Look for God's W_____ as You Ask Him to Work (16-19)

● Daniel pleaded with God to f_____ His word

1. Lift your w_____ against your city (16)
2. Shine your f_____ on your temple (17)
3. Do it for the sake of your p_____ (19)

● Daniel watched for God to work, to fulfill His word

1. ___ years later Cyrus, the Persian took the throne – 536 B.C.
2. Cyrus gave the exiles p_____ to return to their homeland (2 Chr 36:22)

● God desires us to pray that He fulfill His promises

1. Examples of praying for God to fulfill His promises
 - a. Jesus promised that God's k_____ was coming (Mk 1:15), yet commanded us to pray: *Thy kingdom come* (Lk 11:2)
 - b. God promised that He would purchase with Jesus' blood people from every tribe, tongue, nation and class (Rev 5:9), yet we are commanded to pray for the advancement of the g_____ (Col 4:3)
 - c. I Jn 5:14,15 teaches us that if we pray according to God's w_____, we can be confident that He will act.
2. Results of praying for God to fulfill His promises (e.g. Rom 8:28)
 - a. It etches God's promises in our m_____
 - b. It en_____ us as we wait upon Him
 - c. It en_____ us to see God work