

Filled to Overflow: Prayer

Scripture Reading: Aslan Graham

Psalms 55:17-18, 22

Evening, morning and noon I cry out in distress, and he hears my voice.

He rescues me unharmed from the battle waged against me...

Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken.

Daniel's Commitment to Pray Had Incredible Results on His Culture

Daniel 6:1-5, 10, 14-24, 25-28

Darius the Mede decided to divide the kingdom into 120 provinces, and he appointed a high officer to rule over each province. ² The king also chose Daniel and two others as administrators to supervise the high officers and protect the king's interests. ³ **Daniel soon proved himself more capable than all the other administrators and high officers. Because of Daniel's great ability, the king made plans to place him over the entire empire.** ⁴ Then the other administrators and high officers began searching for some fault in the way Daniel was handling government affairs, but they couldn't find anything to criticize or condemn. He was faithful, always responsible, and completely trustworthy. ⁵ So they concluded, **"Our only chance of finding grounds for accusing Daniel will be in connection with the rules of his religion."**

¹⁰ But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. **He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God...**

¹⁴ Hearing this, **the king was deeply troubled, and he tried to think of a way to save Daniel.** He spent the rest of the day looking for a way to get Daniel out of this predicament... ¹⁶ So at last the king gave orders for Daniel to be arrested and thrown into the den of lions. **The king said to him, "May your God, whom you serve so faithfully, rescue you."** ¹⁷ A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den. The king sealed the stone with his own royal seal and the seals of his nobles, so that no one could rescue Daniel. ¹⁸ **Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night fasting.** He refused his usual entertainment and couldn't sleep at all that night. ¹⁹ Very early the next morning, the king got up and hurried out to the lions' den. ²⁰ When he got there, **he called out in anguish, "Daniel, servant of the living God! Was your God, whom you serve so faithfully, able to rescue you from the lions?"** ²¹ Daniel answered, "Long live the king! ²² My God sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, for I have been found innocent in his sight. And I have not wronged you, Your Majesty." ²³ **The king was overjoyed and ordered that Daniel be lifted from the den.** Not a scratch was found on him, for he had trusted in his God. ²⁴ Then the king gave orders to arrest the men who had maliciously accused Daniel. He had them thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. The lions leaped on them and tore them apart before they even hit the floor of the den.

Lasting Impact on a Pagan King, and on a Godless Nation

²⁵ **Then King Darius sent this message to the people of every race and nation and language throughout the world: "Peace and prosperity to you!"** ²⁶ **"I decree that everyone throughout my kingdom should tremble with fear before the God of Daniel. For he is the living God, and he will endure forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed, and his rule will never end.** ²⁷ **He rescues and saves his people; he performs miraculous signs and wonders in the heavens and on earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."** ²⁸ So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Prayer is Listening

Ecclesiastes 5:1-2

Guard your steps as you go to the house of God and **draw near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools**; for they do not know they are doing evil. ²**Do not be hasty in word or impulsive in thought to bring up a matter in the presence of God. For God is in heaven and you are on the earth; therefore let your words be few.**

So much of my pastoral/Christian life trying to learn how to lead...

- Business World
- Seminary
- Leadership Conferences and Retreats
- Books on Leadership
- “Successful” Trends of “Growing” Churches and Ministries

Instead, God has shared with me that I Must learn how to be led...

I've Made a Commitment...

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James 1:5-8

⁵**If you need wisdom, ask our generous God**, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. ⁶But when you ask him, **be sure that your faith is in God alone**. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷**Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.** ⁸**Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.**

Watch with me, let's watch together what God will do...

Exodus 17:11-13

As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the (enemy) was winning. When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. So (they) overcame the (enemy)...