

# Prayer: Humility

## Happy Wednesday!

I hope you each know how much I love you and care for you. I also pray that you know I write these NOT because I'm "so good", but because I'm learning how to apply these Truths in real time. I know I'm not alone in wanting more of God!

Today's topic: prayer

"O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by your name. For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy."

Daniel 9:18 ESV

If you grew up in church, you're familiar with the historical account of Daniel. His coworkers were so jealous of his success and jealous that he was the boss's favorite that they found a way for their boss (the king) to have Daniel thrown into a pit full of lions.

Talk about a Human Resources' nightmare! God caused the lions' mouths to be shut, and the next morning, Daniel was pulled out of the pit and his troublesome coworkers were thrown in and devoured before they even hit the ground!

But that's not what today is about! This prayer above is a verse written and prayed sometime after Daniel came out of the lions' pit. He was praying for his nation to honor God, praying for them to be forgiven, and prayed these words: "O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by your name. *For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy.*" Daniel 9:18 ESV (emphasis added)

When you pray, do you think of God as a genie? Who "makes your prayers come true?"

When you pray, do you throw up a quick "flare prayer," like shooting a flare in the sky so people know you're in distress? "God, HELP!"

When you pray, do you tell God all the problems in your life, and then walk away angrier because all you've done is vented but you have no solution?

When you pray do you talk to God about how good you are compared to others, or simply confess your own short comings?

I hate to reveal this, but at various points in my life and in various spiritual and emotional maturity levels I've done all of these - some even in the same prayer!

I recently read a cheesy Church marquee (one of my favorite road trip activities) that read: “7 days without prayer makes 1 weak”

Well that "cheese" has stuck with me!

Daniel teaches us the heart-posture of prayer: humility.

Prayer isn't telling God what to do in your life out in the lives of others, it's *seeking God*. Prayer doesn't change God, it changes us, changes our perspective, changes our outlook.

Prayer can be sweet like honey: God I praise You! You are Holy and Amazing and Righteous and Perfect. Sweet prayers merely focus on God's true attributes.

Prayer can be sour like vinegar: painful, teary-eyed, and full of hurt. But just like oil and vinegar dressing, where the oil sinks to the bottom of the bottle and the vinegar floats on top: pour out the acid, the pain, the stinging tears to God and let Him leave you with His sweet, savory, satisfying oil that is smooth like a salve to the hurt in our lives.

God doesn't make prayers "come true" - He provides answers. Answers aren't always “yes.” “No” is just as much of an answer as “yes,” and oftentimes, we ask God open-ended questions anyway.

So when you pray, stick around to hear Gods response. Prayer doesn't change God, it changes us.

As you go through this day, find a "breath prayer" - a prayer you can quickly pray as you breathe in and breathe out. Here's one example, breathe in and say, "God have mercy on me," breathe out, "a sinner." This can teach our brains and hearts to gaze at God and glimpsing at our problems instead of glancing at God while gazing at our problems.

#### Prayer:

Lord, thank you for teaching us to pray daily to you, asking for you to provide for our daily needs, for strength to daily forgive others, daily to confess our sins to you so that we may be forgiven, and to daily pray Your Kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven. May we honor You with all that we say, think, and do. Amen.

#### Worship:

“When We Pray” by Tauren Wells [https://youtu.be/9YZZzgJB33E?si=Bb2VW - ATijDHP9 \[youtu.be\]](https://youtu.be/9YZZzgJB33E?si=Bb2VW - ATijDHP9 [youtu.be])

“You Keep Hope Alive” by Church Of The City [https://youtu.be/ROsdWfK\\_G0E?si=BJdRXSbsw116Bn0n \[youtu.be\]](https://youtu.be/ROsdWfK_G0E?si=BJdRXSbsw116Bn0n [youtu.be])

“Talkin’ To Jesus” performed by Brandon Lake and Thomas Rhett [https://youtu.be/N9Rgb27afss?si=PHS5N6DFMPqYa-z6 \[youtu.be\]](https://youtu.be/N9Rgb27afss?si=PHS5N6DFMPqYa-z6 [youtu.be])

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