

A Prayer of Brokenness

John MacArthur

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Daniel 9.

B. We all struggle to be faithful in our prayer life.

C. Daniel was a model of prayer.

D. Daniel had such a compassion for his people that he became ill over the coming disaster upon his people.

E. Daniel was studying the Old Testament (particularly Jeremiah) and learned that the captivity was nearly over.

F. Daniel shows several marks to true prayer.

II. It is a response to the Word of God.

A. It should stir us to pray for mercy and against judgment.

B. We partake in Jesus' work and passion through prayer. (Matthew 16)

III. Prayer is grounded in God's will.

A. Daniel knew God's will and prayed in accordance with it. (Romans 8)

B. We pray to join the will of God, not change it. (1 Samuel 12:19, John 4:34)

IV. Prayer characterized by fervency.

A. We pray without ceasing. (James 5)

B. Daniel's fervency was persistent.

C. The essence of true prayer is given to self-abasement not self-satisfaction. (Psalm 34; 51)

V. True prayer is realizing self-denial. (Genesis 18:27)

VI. Daniel identified with God's people. Daniel did not pray as one unattached. He involved himself in their sin and distress. He was a true servant of God.

VII. Prayer has a longing for righteousness.

A. Many never get beyond the superficial requests.

B. Prayers focused on righteousness will change the life.

VIII. True intercessory prayer consummates in God's glory.

Application Questions:

1. Why pray if God's will is unchangeable?

2. How can we practically live a fervent prayer life when time is so lacking?

3. What should believers focus their prayer on primarily?
