

Elements of True Prayer, Part 1

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Daniel 9.
- B. Daniel was a model in his prayer life.
- C. Jeremiah prophesied that Israel would be in exile for seventy years. Daniel concludes that that time was nearing its conclusion.
- D. Daniel understood the Word of God and he began to pray.
- E. Daniel showed humility, confession and reverence--the proper attitudes of prayer.
- F. Daniel shows principles for intercessory prayer.

II. Prayer is in response to the Word of God.

- A. Prayer follows an understanding of the Word of God.
- B. God's purposes should guide our prayer life.
- C. Prayer is for us to line up with God's causes. (Psalm 119:24, Ezra 9:4, Nehemiah 8:5, Acts 6, Ephesians 3)

III. Prayer is grounded in God's will.

- A. We do not pray to change the will of God.
- B. We pray to line up with God's will.
- C. We never should pray for God to change his will. (1 Samuel 12:19)

IV. Prayer is characterized by fervency.

- A. Jesus teaches to pray without ceasing.
- B. The righteous man prays much and is changed much. (James 5:16)
- C. God responds to fervency.

Application Questions:

1. Why pray if God already knows what we need?

2. What role does the Word play in your own life? How would you like to change that?

3. Why should we not pray for God to change his will? Explain.
