

Elements of True Prayer, Part 3

John MacArthur

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Daniel 9:1-19.

B. Prayer is designed to get us into God's presence. Prayer is companionship. It is identifying with his power, plan and purpose.

II. Prayer is generated by the Word of God--we seek to know God's plan.

III. Prayer is grounded in the will of God.

IV. Prayer is characterized by fervency.

VI. Prayer is marked by self-denial.

VII. Prayer is identified with God's people. (1 Samuel 12:23)

VIII. Prayer is strengthened in confession.

A. Confession is agreeing with God about what he says about sin.

B. Daniel identified with the sins of his people. (Leviticus 16:21, 2 Chronicles 29:6, Ezra 9, Nehemiah 1, 9, Jeremiah 8, 14, Lamentations 1)

C. Confession has many fruits: acknowledgement of sin so God can cure and so that we admit that we deserve it.

D. The confession of sin brings about forgiveness but also frees God to chasten without iniquity. (Joshua 9)

E. Even the pagans in the Old Testament understood that they needed confession. (1 Samuel 4)

IX. True intercessory prayer is based on the character of God.

A. We pray to God because he is powerful enough to respond.

B. He is majestic, meaning he is worthy to be lifted up.

C. He keeps his promises.

D. He has mercy towards those he loves.

E. He is holy and will do what is right.

F. He is merciful and forgiving.

G. All that God is to Daniel, God is to us.

X. True prayer consummates in God's glory.

A. We do not make claims on our own righteousness.

B. The Lord's name is at stake, not our own. (Jeremiah 29:17, Psalm 102:12)

C. We ought to pray that God would be glorified. (John 17)

Application Questions:

1. Does the efficacy of our prayers depend upon confession? Explain.

2. Which principle for true intercessory prayer do you find most helpful? Explain.

3. What does it mean that prayer is for God's glory and his namesake?
