

January 22, 2017
Daniel 9:4-11; 17-19

THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF PRAYER

I. Introduction:

II. Our Need To Pray For Our Nation:

1. We need to pray for our nation because we are in a time of _____
2. We as Christians have _____ to pray for our nation.
3. We need to be a people of _____ for our nation.

III. INGREDIENTS OF DANIELS'S PRAYER

“So I turned to the Lord and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting and in sackcloth and ashes.”
Daniel 9:3 (NIV)

1. There was a _____
“I gave my **attention** to the Lord God to seek him....”
2. There was _____
“I gave my attention to the Lord God to seek him by prayer and **supplication**...”
3. There was _____
“I gave my attention to the Lord God to seek him by prayer and supplication, with **fasting**....”
4. There was _____
“I gave my attention to the Lord God to seek him by prayer and supplication, with fasting, **sackcloth and ashes**.”

IV. The Aspects Of Prayer

1. _____
Worship Is Adoring God For Who He Is
2. _____
Confession is recognizing Who God Is, That He Is A Holy and Righteous God And In Light Of God' Holiness, We Sin And Do Things That Are Not Pleasing In His Sight.
3. _____
Petition Is Requesting Things From God, Either For Ourselves Or For Others.
4. _____
¹⁹Lord, listen! Lord, forgive! Lord, hear and act! **For your sake**, my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name.”

V. Conclusion and Application:

The Challenge: Spend the next 40 days in prayer and fasting: Commit to spending 5-10 minutes a day praying for our nation:

- For our Nation, State, and city officials
- For the moral fabric of our nation
- For our schools, teachers and students
- For the police who battle crime and protect our safety
- For El Estero Presbyterian Church, our leaders and congregation

Consider fasting. Choose a fast you feel led to do. For example, a person may choose not to eat for a whole day or skip a meal, or dessert, or not to drink sodas, etc. The purpose of the fast is to humble ourselves before God and to give up something we normally enjoy. Through prayer and fasting we can intercede for the Lord's supernatural intervention upon our Nation.

POINTS TO PONDER
Week OF January 22nd to 28th
The Transforming Power Of Prayer
Daniel 9:1-27

Open It

1. *When is it most difficult for you to own up to wrongdoing?
2. If God would grant you one request, what would it be?

Explore It

3. What did Daniel come to understand in the first year of the reign of Darius? (9:1-2)
4. What did Daniel's study of the Scripture lead him to do? (9:3)
5. What was the nature of Daniel's confession? (9:4-6)
6. How did Daniel expect that God in His righteousness would punish an unfaithful Israel? (9:7-11)
7. Because of her rebellion and disobedience, what did Israel experience? (9:11-14)
8. *What was the substance of Daniel's petition? (9:15-19)
9. Who came to Daniel while he was praying? (9:20-21)
10. *What was Gabriel's purpose in visiting Daniel? (9:22)
11. Why did Daniel receive such a prompt answer to his prayer? (9:23)
12. *What did God decree for Israel? (9:24-27)

Get It

13. How is your spiritual life affected by momentous world events?
14. Why did Daniel confess his sins?
15. *Why is confession of sin important?
16. When should we confess our sins to God?
17. In what ways do you feel implicated when sin is uncovered in the life of your church?
18. In your experience, what are the benefits of obedience to God?
19. On what basis do you make requests of the Lord?
20. When has God given an especially quick answer to your prayers?
21. When have you been confused by the Lord's response to your prayers?
22. When has the passage of time played an important part in an answer to your prayers?
23. *How can you become more confessional in your everyday life with the Lord?

Apply It

24. *When can you take some time this week to confess sin and thank God for His forgiveness?
25. For what needs in your church and community do you want to pray this week?