

Series: Maui Musings
Title: Praying in a Crisis
Text: Daniel 9:1-5; John 15:7
Topic: Prayer
Teacher: Pastor Barry
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We've all prayed prayers that seemed to go unanswered, so how do you pray the kind of prayer that gets God's attention?

"The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results." James 5:16. Daniel was an effective pray-er.

From Daniel's life we gain insight into how we can pray in a crisis.

1. Let God speak to you before you speak to him.

God is the initiator, and you are the responder. God never expects you to make the first move. *"We love because He first loved us."* I John 4:19

The reason we talk to God is because God first talked to us, through the Bible and the Holy Spirit.

Daniel had a history with God. Throughout Daniel's life he went through multiple changes, many of them involving test after test.

Daniel is 85, and he wants to go home, back to Jerusalem, before he dies. The Israelites had been carried off to Babylon for 70 years because of their disobedience. It's time for God to bring them back to Israel, but they have not turned back to God. This is Daniel's current crisis.

I, Daniel, was studying the Scriptures. I learned from the Lord,...." Daniel 9:1-3

You will never pray effectively until you study the scriptures and learn from the Word.

"If you stay connected to me and my words remain in your heart, you may ask any request you want in prayer, and it will be given to you..." John 15:7.

If your prayers are not being answered you are either not connected with Jesus or His words are not in your heart.

2. Focus your attention on God.

"So, I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking Him..." Daniel 9:3.

When you give your attention, you're giving your time.

There's nothing in the Bible that says you must close your eyes to pray. There's nothing in the Bible says you must bow your head to pray. That's one way to pray, it's a good way but many times in the Bible people didn't close their eyes. They actually looked up and they talked aloud.

Five promises God gives to those who will turn their face to God in prayer.

"Seek me and you will live!" Amos 5:4.

"I love those who love me, and those who seek me will find me!" Proverbs 8:17

"You will find me when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13.

"God rewards those who earnestly seek him." Hebrews 11:6.

"Seek first God's Kingdom, before everything else, and all the other things you need will be given to you." Luke 12:31.

Review Crisis Praying:

#1 Let God speak to you before you speak to him.

#2 Focus your attention on God