

Today's passage tells the story of Daniel realizing God's word and praying in the year Babylon fell, the year the Medo-Persian alliance triumphed. In this passage, we see that when Daniel prayed, God immediately answered. This is stated in verses 20-21 and again in verse 23. Not every prayer is answered immediately. However, Daniel's prayer in today's passage was one that God answered instantly, showing us a powerful example.

We all desire our prayers to be answered. Some prayers, in particular, we long to see answered quickly. So, through today's passage, let us learn the key to prayers that receive a swift response.

First, Read God's Word and Pray Based on It (Verses 1-2)

In today's passage, Daniel read the writings of the prophet Jeremiah. Through that book, he realized that Jerusalem would remain desolate for seventy years (verses 1-2). This realization led him to begin his prayer.

The content of his prayer also reflects Jeremiah's words. Notably, the Hebrew word translated as "desolate" appears in Jeremiah 25, demonstrating a direct connection. Before Daniel prayed, he read and studied the Word. His prayer naturally flowed from the scriptures.

The kind of prayer that God desires is one that understands His will, seeks His will, and serves as a channel for His will to be fulfilled. God's will and heart are revealed in His Word. When our prayers align with God's heart, we begin to experience His answers and work. This is why we must pray while holding onto God's Word (Matthew 6:33, Luke 22:42, John 15:7).

Second, Commit to Making Prayer a Habit (Verse 3)

In Daniel 9:3, it says, "So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes." Daniel made a firm decision to devote himself to prayer.

Why did he resolve so strongly and devote himself entirely to prayer? Because prayer does not happen naturally. We must intentionally set our hearts on it and commit to praying in order for it to take root in our lives. Moreover, prayer should not be a one-time effort but a lifelong habit. This requires determination.

When prayer becomes a habit in our lives, we experience its power. Through persistent and repeated prayer, we encounter the power of prayer.

Third, Open Closed Doors with a Prayer of Repentance (Verses 4-19)

Verses 4-19 contain Daniel's lengthy prayer. However, its essence is simple: "God, we have sinned. That is why we are suffering shame, pain, and disaster. We seek Your mercy and forgiveness. Shine Your face upon us once again." In summary, this is a prayer of confessing sins and seeking forgiveness—what we call a prayer of repentance.

Daniel's prayer was a prayer of repentance, a confession of sin, and a plea for God's forgiveness—a turning back to God.

One of the biggest reasons God does not hear our prayers or why we do not experience His work in our lives is sin. For our prayers to be answered and for God's power to manifest in our lives, repentance is crucial. Daniel realized this through God's Word and prayed a prayer of repentance (Isaiah 59:1-2).

Daniel knew that in order for God to answer, repentance had to come first. Through his prayer of repentance, he sought to remove the barriers blocking God's grace. May repentance begin in our lives as well. Through prayers of repentance, may we break through the barriers that block God's grace and work.

Praying while holding onto God's Word, committing to prayer as a habit, and offering prayers of repentance—all these are ways to know God's heart and to hold onto Him in prayer. And when we pray in this way, God moves.

**Bible
Memorization**

A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.” (Isaiah 59:1-2)

**Bible
Reading**

3/3(Mon)	3/4(Tue)	3/5(Wed)	3/6(Thur)	3/7(Fri)	3/8(Sat)	3/9(Sun)
Numbers 30-31	Numbers 32-33	Numbers 34-36, Deut. 1	Deut. 2-3	Deut. 4	Deut. 5-7	Deut. 8-10

QT

Quiet Time Passage

3/3(Mon)	3/4(Tue)	3/5(Wed)	3/6(Thur)	3/7(Fri)	3/8(Sat)	3/9(Sun)
John 17:20-26	John 18:1-14	John 18:15-27	John 18:28-40	John 19:1-13	John 19:14-22	John 19:23-30

**Sharing
Questions**

1. Share an experience of God's grace in your life from last week's sermon or your personal devotion time.

2. What new insights or blessings did you receive from today's message?

3. Reflecting on Daniel's prayer, in what ways do you think your prayers should change? How do you want to pray moving forward? Share your thoughts and pray for one another.