

Grace Notes

Keep On Praying 2

11.02.09



As I was praying, Gabriel, whom I had seen in the earlier vision, came swiftly to me at the time of the evening sacrifice. He explained to me, "Daniel, I have come here to give you insight and understanding.

The moment you began praying, a command was given.

(Daniel 9:21-23)

Allow me to borrow a quote from a devotional I wrote a couple of weeks ago and then build a little on that particular devotional entitled, "Keep On Praying."

"I suggest to you that of all the weapons at your disposal (listed in Ephesians 6), prayer is the most vital. It must be, for Satan tries everything he can to keep us from praying. He doesn't want you inviting God into the battle. He would like to keep it just between the two of you." (Chuck Smith, Pastor of Calvary Chapel, Costa Mesa, CA)

I've got to be honest—there are so many things about prayer I simply do not understand. But if I believe John 3:16, I've got to believe passages like Daniel 9:21-23 which tell me that—regardless of if the answer is 'yes', 'no', or 'not yet' - God responds to each and every prayer "as soon as it's prayed."

Author/Theologian, J.I. Packer, wrote, "*The Christian's life is not a bed of roses; it is a battlefield, on which he has constantly to fight for his life.*" And the enemy will do whatever is in his power to keep us from "*inviting God into the battle.*" Case in point: one chapter later, in Daniel 10, Daniel commits to fasting & praying for "three weeks." (10:2-3) All of a sudden an angel of the Lord—so terrifying that Daniel's friends ran for their lives—appeared to Daniel and said, "Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer. But for *twenty-one days* the spirit [demon] prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia." (10:12-13)

Have you given up on a prayer because you thought God wasn't listening, or was taking too long to respond? According to Daniel 9-10, much more is going on in response to our prayers than we can possibly comprehend. Our commitment to pray faithfully is vital.

In light of Paul's words—"We wrestle not against flesh and blood" (Eph 6:12) - someone once said, "Get on your knees and fight like a man." Oh, dear friends, may we "fight the good fight" - and may we never, never give up the battle of prayer.



Soli Deo Gloria, Nick