

Thursday May 2nd

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14-15

24-7 Prayer for New York State



Pray, and Do Not Give Up!

April 2013

"[Jesus] told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not to turn coward (faint, lose heart, and give up). He said, In a certain city there was a judge...And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Protect and defend and give me justice . . .' And for a time he would not; but later he said to himself, . . .' because this widow continues to bother me, I will defend and protect and avenge her, lest she give me intolerable annoyance and wear me out by her continual coming. . . .' Then the Lord said, 'Listen to what the unjust judge says! And will not [our just] God defend and protect and avenge His elect (His chosen ones), who cry to Him day and night? . . . I tell you, He will defend and protect and avenge them speedily. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find [persistence in] faith on the earth?'" (Luke 18:1-8 AMP)

The main point of this parable is seen in the introductory line, "pray and not to turn coward (faint, lose heart, and give up)." This parable teaches that God will answer prayer, but the emphasis is on the delayed response. James Thomson insightfully commented that both God and the unrighteous judge delay. God delays in order to build faith, for it is tenacity in the face of disappointment that deepens our faith. It is divine love behind the divine delay, (James Thomson, *The Praying Christ*, London: Tyndale Press, 1954, 14). In this parable Jesus clearly teaches that God doesn't relate to us as an unconcerned judge, but as a loving, attentive Father.

Once I was talking with Steve Hawthorne, founder of Waymakers, about his passion for training people to pray. I can't forget this wise piece of advice: "We must teach the Church to pray persistent prayers of hope. Sadly, many have reduced prayer down to a request-management system." When that happens, people lose heart and quit praying.

Lord, thank You for building our faith as we wait for answers that seem long in coming. Give us the courage to trust You and the process. Teach us to pray and never give up.

-Adapted from an article by Joseph Winger in *incenseRising*, March 2005.

Continued over page



WILL YOU COMMIT TO PRAY?
IT BEGINS WITH YOU!

PRAY FOR AMERICA
Commit2Pray.com

www.nationaldayofprayer.org

THE GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER



19 May 2013

A Prayer for The World

www.gdopusa.com

Continued from previous page..

Prayer Points

Praise the prayer-hearing God that His ear is attentive to your prayers. Give thanks for the privilege of coming into God's presence and conversing with Him through prayer. Confess any personal failure in your prayer life that you are aware of. Commit yourself to being a faithful intercessor. Ask that God will strengthen your prayer life and help you to pray in the Spirit with all kinds of prayer, on all occasions, for all God's people (Eph. 6:18).

Pray for unity in the Spirit. Ask for a deep love for, and understanding between family members and friends, and for reconciliation where they are at odds.

-Prayer Points taken from [Patterns for Prayer](#) by Alvin VanderGriend

Connection (Devotions for Everyday Life) is published by Harvest Prayer Ministries. Subscribe free at connection.harvestprayer.com

Read Daniel 9:4-19

"A Tale of Two Cities" written in 1859 by Charles Dickens begins "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times. A time of hope, a time of despair." As you read these verses from Daniel 9 the similarity with today is the same. Our state and our nation drift farther away from God. Daniel's solution was prayer. Christians should examine Daniels words. What made Daniel's prayer accepted by God? He began with confession to his God. "I prayed, and made my confession " Daniel confessed the sin they had been guilty of; had sorrow over it and resolved against it.

1. Daniel made a serious, reverent address to his God. A god to be feared; to stand in awe of, a god to be trusted and depended upon and to put our confidence in. If we fulfill our part of the bargain He will not fail to fulfill His.
2. He makes a penitent confession of sin, the cause of all the calamities which his people had been groaning under for so many years. (Dan 9:5-6) Daniel humbled himself for the national sin. All the Jewish people had sinned. God's professing people who knew better, God's peculiar people who He surrounded with His favor. If they were to find mercy - they must make confession of their sin.
3. Daniel acknowledged the righteousness of God in all the judgments against them. He acknowledged that it was sin that brought them all their trouble. God had done no wrong in all He did. They got what they deserved.

4. Daniel appeals to the mercies of God and the concern of His own glory in their interest. There are abundant mercies in God; He multiplies to pardon.
5. Daniel requested God to restore the Jewish people. God's holy people were despised. Their sins had profaned them and made them despicable. Their neighbors laughed at them and Jerusalem and the sanctuary became desolate

So Daniel prayed and made confession. So let us begin by confessing the sins we are guilty of - have sorrow over - and be resolved against.

Plead to God to show His mercy for:

Government: Pray for our leaders and ask God to grant them wisdom to act with integrity. 1 Tim 2:1-2, Proverbs 11:3, Romans 13:1-2

Military: Pray for divine protection and guidance for our armed forces. II Chronicles 32:6-8, psalm 57:1, Psalm 59:1 Proverbs 2:8.

Media: Pray for truth and morality to be presented. Proverbs 12:9-22, Ephesians 4:29, Philippians 4:8.

Business: Pray that God will rise up His ambassadors in the work place. Matthew 5:14-16, Galatians 6:9, Proverbs 29:2, Exodus 31:3-5.

Education: Pray for safety, morally sound instruction and wholesome environments. Duet 11:18-19, Psalm 34:7, Matt 19:14, Psalm 90:16-17.

Church: Pray for unity and boldness in proclaiming God's word. Matt 16:18-19, Ephesians 4:3-6, II Thes 1:4, Acts 16:15.

Family: Pray that families will follow godly principles. Joshua 24:15, Psalm 127:3-5, Ephesians 5:21, Mark 3:25, Proverbs 22:6.