

DEVOTIONS

Daniel 6:10: Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

I would like anyone to prove that you can be a real Christian without prayer, praise, and Bible study.



A Christian has habits a sinner does not and cannot have. We don't wait for emergencies to pray. We keep an open channel between us and our God. Anyone seeing into your house will label you. Daniel prayed and praised God – that's true devotions. I'd rather hear you pray than sing and shout. It puts substance and quality into your singing and shouting. A praying saint will be a sin-resister.

The Bible describes prayer in many different ways, such as calling, crying, seeking, asking, knocking, supplication, pouring out the heart, lifting up the soul, making intercession. Has anyone seen or heard you do that in your house? If not, why not? How long have the windows been shut between you and God?

Daniel humbled himself when he prayed. Perhaps this is the reason you don't pray any more. Too proud – too big now – independent.

Daniel 10:3: I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.

“With fasting” — This attitude will set the stage for your whole household. Dad and Mom's respect for God will breed the same into those sons and daughters. Being humble is not like milk toast; it puts backbone into the spirit and chases arrogance and self-righteousness out. The source of that humility is the family altar, not games, TV, or smart clothes. Fearless dependence upon God produces strong character.

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Daniel confessed his and his people's sins when he prayed. That can break you up – hearing dad and mom on their knees telling God, in the family's presence, all their meanness and failures in living up to God's standard. Try it! David did it. He said,

Psalms 51:3: For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

Your children know more about it than you think. Jeremiah did the same.



Jeremiah 14:20: We acknowledge, O Lord, our wickedness, and the iniquity of our fathers: for we have sinned against thee.

The Bible says:

Proverbs 28:13: He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

We need to wash, bathe, and cleanse our soul and spirit every day as often as we cleanse and disinfect our body.

Daniel pleaded with God when he prayed. We plead for more time to make up back payments; Junior pleads for the car; sis for later hours to date; the wife pleads for more grocery money; dad pleads for a little quiet at the table; a child pleads to be taken seriously. How is it that we forget all this between us and God.

Daniel 9:19: O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for Thine Own sake, O my God: for Thy city and Thy people are called by Thy Name.

Daniel gave thanks when he prayed. A complainer will spoil any home, any church, will darken the day, and will kill the spirit of prayer. Paul tells the symptoms of the LAST DAYS:

2 Timothy 3:2: For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

That is exact insight into today's problems. A grateful person is a happy and clean soul. It brings quickly down the pleasure of God. It will affect the whole family life. Try it. It is a matter of life and death, spiritually.

Daniel went into his house and prayed three times daily. So did Peter — on the house top he had a private meeting with God. Christ went to the mountain to get alone with God.



There are times God wants you all to Himself. You can't reach God on a party line, with TV or music blasting, or with company laughing and talking. Shut the door. Have regular appointments with God. We have a regular time to feed our body, for our car checkup, and for our grocery shopping. How do you treat God? David said, ***"Every morning and at noon will I pray and cry aloud."***

Psalms 55:17: Evening and morning and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and He shall hear my voice.

One peaceful, untroubled, refreshing night of sleep is worth a thousand praises! That is how we should feel every morning when we kneel in prayer, and I wouldn't venture into a new, untried day without seeking my Father's help and direction.

At noon, more than a siesta, do I need Him. I need Him more than a good luncheon. I need soul energy and inspiration from the Lord for the longest remaining hours.

When this church gets back to more "knee drill", there will be more shouts in the camp. Our fancy clothes and plush pews will be less important when our surrender to God brings us into Daniel's status. He influences a kingdom on earth for God, as did Paul, and what shall I say more of our Lord Jesus?

You can't be a real Christian without personal devotions. In times of crisis, it most pays off. Your confidence is already there in God. You don't have to drop off into despair. It is a comfort to find God there when we need Him because we were there when He needed us to intercede.



Yes, there is an alliance of evil formed against us. There are subversive agreements to wreck our life. Hell and all its wicked demons want to throw us into satan's den of lions. We can't make terms with the world, the flesh, and the devil. Our faithfulness

to God, holding onto our integrity, and being blessed, infuriates them. But God placed us here for such a time as this, to read and interpret what others can't, whose spiritual eyes are not illuminated. Every day we need to pray.

Psalms 119:18: Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy Law.

You will be exposed to temptation, pride, infidelity, idolatry, dissipation, and gluttony, as was Daniel. Every factory, office, and home is a battleground with satan's forces.

Daniel saw and met the tests with prayer and praise. It made him so perfect before God that even men with hate and jealousy in their heart against him still couldn't find fault in him. He accomplished his daily tasks as head over 120 secretaries without missing his prayer time.

So then they passed a law against praying to cut him off from his powerhouse. As we learn from Daniel, just one man can stir up a whole kingdom — not just a denomination or church. Just one man of prayer and praise. They passed a law for just one man! Yes, his prayers were that perfect. This atheistic decree shows the high stakes satan's forces stake against the holy and undefiled.

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The man had faithfully served God in the country to which he had been exiled, and passed every security test of government. But now there are those who would urge him to compromise — to pray less, or to pray elsewhere or not at all for awhile. Daniel hadn't gotten where he was by running away. **He knew further that conscience, once trifled with, is never the same.**

God's Spirit can be grieved away, and is hard to regain. Daniel's faith in God had been tested before, and in the pathway of duty, this was just another challenge from the forces of evil which he would not allow to win the battle for his soul.

You, too, will win by staying in unbroken fellowship with God in uncompromising prayer, praise, and holiness living.

Proverbs 15:8: The prayer of the upright is His delight.

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