

# Prayer's Humility

*Ray Stedman*

## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Daniel 9:1-32.

B. After seventy years the people of Israel would return to their land from captivity in Babylon.

II. Although God announces what He is going to do, He accomplishes it through the prayers of His people.

A. Prayer is God's way of involving us in what He wants to do.

B. Prayer is not simply getting what one wants.

## III. Daniel's prayer.

A. He looked to the God who he prayed to.

1. The way to start with prayer is to start with God as Jesus taught.

2. God is a great and terrible God. God must be seen as both terrible and gracious.

B. Daniel confesses sin.

1. Scripture remarkably records no wrong in Daniel but here he confesses on behalf of himself.

2. Daniel confesses the sin of his people as well.

3. It is challenging to admit that one is wrong--it is humiliating.

4. We must confess sin however because we are being dishonest about ourselves.

5. Relationships help us understand ourselves.

6. The place we begin with God is repentance.

7. Anger at God is a major hindrance to prayer.

a. We must never accuse God of being unrighteous.

b. If we get angry with God it is because we want to be God.

c. We can confess this, which prepares us for God to act.

C. Daniel's supplication.

1. He asks that the curse would be lifted from Jerusalem and the Temple.
2. We are to humble ourselves when our prayers are not answered.
3. Daniel's prayer is answered with the fulfillment of the seventy weeks.
4. Humility is the key to touching the heart of God.
5. The effectual prayer of a righteous person releases tremendous power.

**Application questions:**

1. Why is it critical to have a right view of God for prayers to be answered?

---

---

2. How has confession in prayer brought healing to your own life?

---

---

3. What place does righteousness have in prayer? Does God answer the prayers of everyone no matter what their condition is? Explain.

---

---