

Introduction

We continue in our study on Daniel's prayer in chp 9

It does not spoil your happiness to confess your sin. The unhappiness is in not making the confession.

Charles Spurgeon

When a believer loses personal touch with the God of light, he begins to live in darkness. But confession of sin is the way back into the light.

John Walvoord; Roy B. Zuck

Poverty of spirit is the personal acknowledgment of spiritual bankruptcy. It is the conscious confession of unworth before God. As such, it is the deepest form of repentance.

D. A. Carson

Confession of sin is the inward acknowledgement of sin , whereas repentance is the out action that should follow sin.

Historical Background

What we have discovered so far

Keys to God honoring prayer is:

- immerse yourself in God's **word** so as to immerse yourself in knowing His will
- is turning away from life and **turning to God in Faith** as expressed through prayer
- is **recognizing God** for who He truly is and **affirming it in worship.**
- is to have a right relationship with God.
- is giving of yourself completely to God in attitudes and actions in worship

Passage

Proposition

5 lessons on Daniel's prayer that teaches you how to pray God honoring prayers.

1. Daniel's prayers were grounded in Scripture vs 1-2
2. Daniel's prayers were grounded in faith vs 3 (Week 1)
3. Daniel's prayers exalted God. vs 4
4. Daniel's prayers openly confessed sin. vs 5-14 (Week 2)
5. Daniel's prayer requests were based on God's character and glory. vs 15-19

1. Daniel's prayers were grounded in Scripture vs 1-2
2. Daniel's prayers were grounded in faith vs 3 (Week 1)
3. Daniel's prayers exalted God. vs 4
4. Daniel's prayers openly confessed sin. vs 5-14

Daniel 9:5–14 (ESV)

⁵ we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules.

True worship of God causes a deep awareness of sin.

Having confessed the greatness of God, Daniel's heart moved him to confess His sins and the sins of the people.

From vs 5-14 we see a lengthy confession of sin.

Note he used the term **we**, which reveals:

- Daniel's identification with the sin of the nation as if he was personally responsible for them.
- Daniel felt a collective responsibility
- Daniel himself shared both in the promises and warning of divine judgment
- deep involvement and the sensitivity for the sake of his people.

Moses similarly confessed the sins of Israel with the golden calf event

Exodus 32:30–32 ESV

³⁰ The next day Moses said to the people, "You have sinned a great sin. And now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin."

³¹ So Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Alas, this people has sinned a great sin. They have made for themselves gods of gold.

³² But now, if you will forgive their sin—but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written."

Daniel understood:

- that as a nation, Israel sinned against God.
- that it would impact their relationship with God.

Daniel also knew that for God to hear, forgive and restore them, Israel needed to humble themselves, pray, seek God's face and turn from their wicked ways.

This is what God told Solomon in

| 2 Chronicles 7:12–15 (ESV)

| ¹² Then the LORD appeared to Solomon in the night and said to him: "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice.

| ¹³ When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people,

| ¹⁴ **if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways**, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

| ¹⁵ Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place.

In the light of who God is (Creator, Lord, the covenant keeping God, the devoted lover)

Israel had been the rebellious, covenant breakers and the unfaithful lovers

Note Daniel :

- did not minimize their sin
- did not call them mistakes

- did not call it accidents
- did not blame shift
- did not hide their sins
- did not tell lies about them
- did not try and put a good foot forward.

In fact Daniel did the very opposite, he used a variety of different terms to describe their sin.

- sinned
- done wrong
- acted wickedly
- rebelled
- turning aside
- **Sinned**=Hata = **to miss** = Mounce=do wrong, **miss the way** Nidotte= miss the mark (Logos= to violate a divine law) Root = bent, twisted
- **done wrong** = "awah"= **do wrong**, perverse, warped, ruin, make crooked, vines = do iniquity, to deviate from the way Logos= treat unjustly
- **acted wickedly** ="rasa"= Mounce= do evil, act wickedly, to be guilty, Nidotte= unrighteous, wrong, Halot= act godlessly, cause wickedness VINes= wrongdoing or being in the wrong, refers to the people who have done wrong and are still living in sin and are intent on continuing with wrongdoing.

The grammar indicates that that sinning and doing wrong was the cause for them acting wickedly.

James teaches you that all sin begins with sinful desires.

| James 1:14–15 (ESV)

| ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

| ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

So if you were to confess your sin:

Don't blame others

Don't blame the world

Don't blame satan

Blame your own sinful desires, blame yourself.

If you sin, openly acknowledge your sin . "Lord I was wrong in doing, I confess and acknowledge that as sin...

Daniel also described their sin as

- **rebelled** = "marad= Mounce = rebel , revolt Nidotte= oppose, resist revolt in the political and theological arena Joel= wicked with God defying gusto

Israel rebelled to God being in charge.

Essentially that's what sin is.

At its core is you choosing to be an independent authority.

You forsake God for yourself to be in authority.

The grammar indicates that all these terms for sin were completed actions.

This was a done deal, a reality.

Complementary to above mentioned sins they had **turned aside**.

- **turned aside** = "sur" = Mounce= to turn away, depart, leave Nidotte= to turn aside from ones course of , desert, faithless, disloyal LOGOS = change orientation or direction, leaving a set course or path

Israel had

- missed the mark,
- did wrong,
- which caused them to act wickedly
- They rebelled

which in addition to all meant they had turning aside from Gods way.

Instead of being on the straight and narrow path , they had left the path of faith and obedience.

God uses various means of grace to restrain sin.

One of those means was to send his servants the prophets to warn Israel to repent, to warn them of impending judgment.

But even though God sent them, Israel did not listen to them.

⁶ We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers,

and to all the people of the land.

Even though

- they were God's servants
- they came in His name (as representatives of God)
- they had informed everyone:
 - From the top leadership kings, the subordinate leaders (princes)(middle management),the household leaders(Fathers) and even the people on the ground.

They did not listen =shema"= hear , listen obey.

Just like at the fall, as Adam was confronted by God, the first thing that surfaced was their guilt.

Question

How often do you:

- not listen to God?
- read God's word and choose not to obey
- hear preachers preach and not follow

I mean how often 10 min after the sermon, do you forget what you had heard.

If your mind is distracted, when you read God's word, or hear Gods word preached, nothing penetrates.

If you have made the effort to come to church, why spend the time unless you pay attention.

If you have opened your bible to read, why spend the time unless your paying attention.

Hosea said

Hosea 4:6 *ESV*

⁶ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

If a nation is destroyed by the lack of knowledge of God and His will, surely you would want to make every effort to pay attention and implement His word.

In your prayer life confess and repent of your ignorance, and confess and repent of your attitude of not listening to God.

Daniel then used a series of contrasts to illustrate the faithfulness of God with the unfaithfulness of God's people.

And if you recall the events in the fall, the second thing that surfaced after Adam and Eve sinned was their shame. (Tried to cover that with figleaves)

⁷ To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness, but to us open shame, as at this day, to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to all Israel, those who are near and those who are far away, in all the lands to which you have driven them, because of the treachery that they have committed against you.

In the Hebrew you only read ***leqa Adonai Hasadaqa*** for you ...God the righteous ***welanu boshet hapanim*** but to us shame of face

God the righteous is contrasted on Israel's face shame.

Righteousness = *sadaqa* = acting according to God's standards, doing what is right.

God the righteous = God adhered to the standard, God kept the moral standard, God kept His promises.

But to Israel open shame = *boshet* = Mounce disgrace, humiliation = *hapanim* = a shameful thing. = Logos = state of dishonor

This was a massive thing in an honor shame culture.

Greek culture the world is private, what matters in your thoughts is a cohesive state of mind, Don't pay attention to what others say, just listen to your heart.

But in Hebrew world, everything others say and observe is critical important to character. In the Hebrew world all houses are glass.

So *bosh* = to fall into disgrace, normally through failure. Sensitivity to the public image was enormous. What matters is what others think, not just what I think. There is no Robinson Crusoe, I am the sum of all who came before me, all who interact with me and all who follow me.

So shame in Biblical texts speak of public exhibitions, of embarrassment, dismay.

It's what you and I would face if we stood before the great white throne explaining your behavior to the king of kings.

Shame is worse than guilt for these cultures.

Currently in Iran, the reason they want to attack Israel is because of the shame that has come upon them as a country, that could not protect the leader of the Hamas movement in the heart of Iran.

Sin has a price.

What you sow you reap.

Here was a the nation who's God

- was the true living God
- had delivered them from the Egyptians,
- gave them the law
- gave them the promised land
- came and dwelt with them at the tabernacle and later in the temple.

Yet they forsook that God, they rebelled against that God and now their own saving God had driven them out of their own land.

What other heathen nation ever had it own god driving them out of their own land.

What other nation stood umbarest and red faced before all the nations.

Daniel gave the reason- **because of their treachery**

The reason given:**because of their treachery** = maal=Mounce
unfaithfulness=disloyalty, infidelity Vines= to act unfaithfully

Like the unfaithful wife or husband publicly caught in adultery.

Israel like an unfaithful spouse had violated their covenant with God resulting in them receiving shame and humiliation from the other nations.

Daniel not only confessed their sins, but also their shame.

Daniel gave a 2nd contrast

⁸ To us, O LORD, belongs open shame, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against you.

⁹ To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him

¹⁰ and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God by

walking in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets.

Here Daniel contrasted Israel's shame on the faces (public exhibition of disgrace) of Israel's kings, princes and fathers with God's Mercy and forgiveness

God is mercy full, God is the forgiving God, yet Israel sinned and brought shame.

They had taken advantage of His Grace and Mercy.

Like Paul wrote

| Romans 6:1–2 (ESV)

| ¹ What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?

| ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

They knew God

In contrast to adonai Elohim **belongs Mercy** (Compassion, Logos = deep awareness of sympathy for another's suffering, Halot = feelings of love, mercy) and **forgiveness** (pardon Twot = used of God's offer of pardon and forgiveness to the sinner.) Israel sinned, Israel rebelled, Israel disobeyed the voice of God (the law given by the prophets) Israel did the actions that brought shame.

How often do you presume upon God's compassion, upon His grace and use that as an excuse to continue sinning.

- Oh well, let me do it again, God will forgive.
- Ow well let me sin briefly.

If this is you, brother or sister, confess your justification, acknowledge that as sin and repent of that ...stop it.

Daniel then contrasted Israel that had **transgressed the law**, with **God's faithfulness to His covenant, and faithfully bringing what he promised the clarity, the curses.**

¹¹ All Israel has transgressed your law and turned aside, refusing to obey your voice. And the curse and oath that are written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out upon us, because we have sinned against him.

¹² He has confirmed his words, which he spoke against us and against our rulers who ruled us, by bringing upon us a great calamity. For under the whole heaven there has not been done anything like what has been done against Jerusalem.

¹³ As it is written in the Law of Moses, all this calamity has come upon us; yet we have not entreated the favor of the LORD our God, turning from our iniquities and gaining insight by your truth.

¹⁴ Therefore the LORD has kept ready the calamity and has brought it upon us, for the LORD our God is righteous in all the works that he has done, and we have not obeyed his voice.

Israel turned aside from God's word

Israel did not keep their word.

Israel broke the covenant they had made with God

How often do you say things which you do not keep?

How often do you make promises you do not keep?

God keeps his word, surely you should emulate Him.

But God was faithful to the contract he had made with Israel in Dt 28-29,

God confirmed His word

God kept His word and God kept ready the calamity to bring it upon His people.

He would be the cause of evil, misfortune horrible events coming upon Israel.

And as God brings it upon His people, God is seen to be faithful to His own word.

The term calamity = raah = bad, = calamity, misfortune, = events that result in great loss and misfortune

When you read and study the curses and blessings that were the results of either obeying or disobeying God's laws and you read and carefully compare what happened to Israel, you realize how true to the word God acted.

God pays specific attention to his **own word.....do you?**

- God is righteous
- God follows His rules

- On Israel is shame
- On God only glory

Throughout this section one realizes that God's word proves true....how do people view what you say?

What God warned happened

Brothers and sisters think about that truth.

Do you walk your talk

Do you keep your word...or do you simply on the whim of the moment, based on your feelings, your comforts change and not keep your word?

This highlights the importance of obeying God's word because God watches over His word to confirm it.

It highlights the importance of God's people need to pursue keeping your word.

When you measure your failure to keep God's word with God's faithfulness to confirm, watch and keep his word, you're left in a condition of shame, guilt and sorrow.

A key to God honoring prayer, is an honest acknowledgement of your sin, your shame and your guilt.

If He knows ... what we need, why must we pray? Not to instruct Him, but to prevail with Him—to be made intimate with Him by continuance in supplication, to be humbled, to be reminded of your sins.

bio.JohnChrysostom.1

And if you know you have been sinning in this area.

Confess your sin

Repent of your sin

bring it to the cross of Christ where you will find forgiveness for your sin.

1 John 1:9 ESV

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

5. Daniel prayers requests were based on God's character and glory. vs 15-19

Daniel 9:15–19 (ESV)

¹⁵ And now, O Lord our God, who brought your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and have made a name for yourself, as at this day, we have sinned, we have done wickedly.

¹⁶ “O Lord, according to all your righteous acts, let your anger and your wrath turn away from your city Jerusalem, your holy hill, because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and your people have become a byword among all who are around us.

Finally Daniel comes to the section where he made request to God.

The supplication section

The area most believers tend to start with (their shopping lists)

Notice how God centered His requests are.

First he affirmed how God had made a name for Himself.

Daniel was drawing attention to the fact that God was a covenant keeping God, that had delivered Israel in the past, and as such He can deliver Israel in the present.

Again Daniel acknowledged Israels sin.

He was not appealing to God because of their behavior.

He appealed to God based on who God is, based upon God’s reputation. (Joel james)

Vs 15 God was the Saving God who rescued Israel from Egypt

vs 16 God is the righteous acting God.

Since Gods reputation is linked with Jerusalem and the Hebrew people, then His name is also mocked when they mock Israel

Based upon God’s honor, he appealed to God to turn His wrath away from Jerusalem.

The wrath that came because of their sins.

¹⁷ Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your

servant and to his pleas for mercy, and for your own sake, O Lord, make your face to shine upon your sanctuary, which is desolate.

In vs 17 Daniel request God to listen to His servant.

The grammar indicates it to be a command that functions here as a request.

Daniel appeals to God's mercy.

But he appeals for God's own sake.

18 O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by your name. For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy.

- Incline your ear
- Hear
- Open your eyes
- see our desolation

In the grammar these are all imperatives that function here as strong requests to God.

Notice how Daniel appeals come **based upon the reputation of God**.

The city that is called **by your name**.

Were requesting not because of our righteousness, not because of us keeping your commands, not because of our Godly behavior, but because of your great mercy (your compassion)

Meaning that He is asking not based upon anything they did or failed to do.

He had realized they did not deserve anything from God.

A key to god honoring prayers is to ask only once you realize you have no right to deserve anything.

God's answers depends upon Gods Mercy, God's will

It is the will of God that we should in every thing make our requests known to him by prayer and supplication; not to inform or move him, but to qualify ourselves for the mercy.

Matthew Henry (Nonconformist Biblical Exegete)

When the people of God are stirred up to prayer, it is the effect of his intention to show mercy; therefore he pours out the spirit of grace and supplication.

Jonathan Edwards (American Evangelical Preacher)

19 O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay attention and act. Delay not, for your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people are called by your name."

Daniels supplications, His request comes like gunshots, short and brief.

These brief requests highlighted his sincerity and the urgency

Adonaih shema

- Lord Listen
- Lord forgive
- Lord pay attention
- Lord act

And then

Delay not, the Grammar here indicates that God should intensively delay not.

Meaning, act quickly.

But then we see the core reason God is requested to answer these requests.

For your own sake, which is a repeat of vs 17, meaning that Daniel was emphasizing this truth.

- A key to God honoring prayers is to ask for God's own sake, His own honor, His own glory and His own purposes.

Psalm 79:9 ESV

⁹ Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us, and atone for our sins, for your name's sake!

Psalm 115:1 ESV

¹ Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

In summary

Keys to God honoring prayer is:

- **immerse yourself in God's word** so as to immerse yourself in knowing His will
- is **turning away from life and turning to God** in Faith as expressed through prayer
- is **recognizing God** for who He truly is and affirming it in worship.
- is to have a right relationship with God.
- is **giving of yourself** completely to God in attitudes and actions in worship
- is an honest acknowledgement **of your sin, your shame and your guilt.**
- is to ask only once you realize you have no right to deserve anything.
- is to ask for God's own sake, His own honor, His own glory and His own purposes.

Application

When you come in prayer, with the mindset, what will honor God, what will give him glory, your prayer content will change.

When you come and pray knowing that you don't deserve God to answer you, you have the right mindset.

So as you pray know that its only by God's grace, and for His glory that he will answer you.

Also make sure that as you pray, you allow God's word to inform what you request.

As you pray understand you have no right to demand God answer you, but as you pray you can pray that the outcome would bring God glory.

God's glory is and must forever remain the Christian's true point of departure. Anything that begins anywhere else, whatever it is, is certainly not New Testament Christianity.¹

A. W. Tozer

Conclusion

But those and similar promises are qualified; all prayer requests must be consistent with God's will.

John F. MacArthur

He who begins his prayer by affirming that God is the great source and object of his joy, fortifies himself before-hand with the strongest confidence, in presenting his supplications to the hearer of prayer.

John Calvin (French Reformer); Anderson, James

I believe that when we cannot pray, it is time that we prayed more than ever. And if you answer, "But how can that be?" I would say, pray to pray. Pray for prayer. Pray for the spirit of supplication. Do not be content to say, "I would pray if I could." No, but if you cannot pray, pray till you can.—

Charles Spurgeon