

Series: A Purposeful Heart

PERSISTENCE IN PRAYER

DANIEL 10

Text:

Introduction:

Often when things are going well many have no desire for God.

Tragedy drives us to want to pray.

Burdens drive us to seek help.

Daniel had a burden. Daniel had been through a trying time.

Note:

1. A BURDENED SERVANT (VS. 1-3)

Daniel 10:1-3

¹ In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision. ² In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks. 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.

A. He Had Seen the Rejection of the Messiah (9:26).

This revelation had to be a blow to such a faithful servant of God.

B. He was Secluded by the Return of the Jews

1. He was Burdened for the Work in Canaan.

2. He was Burdened for the Weak in Babylon.

He was now lonely in Babylon. Captivity had ended. Zerubbabel and the righteous Jews had left for Canaan.

All that remained were those too feeble to travel, or those who were at ease in Babylon and wanted to stay in the land where they had been enslaved.

Most had been born there.

C. He was Seeking for a Relief of His Burden.

(Prayed for three weeks straight and no answer, but he was not giving up - The heavens seemed as brass).

Fasting is never a prescribed ritual. It is also not a magical lever to force God to do what we want.

Fasting is brought on by a Spiritual burden and a broken heart before God.

HIS BURDEN OUTWEIGHED HIS DESIRE FOR ANYTHING.

A burden is hard, but not always a bad thing. It drives us to seek the Lord.

When Daniel began seeking God, then after a while there was:

2. A BLESSED APPEARANCE – (VS. 4-11)

Daniel 10:4-11

⁴ *And in the four and twentieth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, which is Hiddekel;*
⁵ *Then I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a certain man clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with fine gold of Uphaz: ⁶ His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude. ⁷ And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves. ⁸ Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength. ⁹ Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground. ¹⁰ And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands. ¹¹ And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling.*

A. The Counselor

1. Priestly Garments - vs. 6 Linen - Better than linen of the earthly priests.

2. Prophetic Garments - vs. 6-7 (Rev 1:13-17)

B. The Conviction - vs. 8

1. Isaiah cried Woe is me for I am undone.

2. Job - I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.

3. Habakkuk - my belly trembled; my lips quivered at the voice: rottenness entered into my bones.

4. Peter - Depart from me; for I am a sinful man.

5. Concerning the Apostle John - Revelation 1:17 "And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead."

C. The Comfort - vs. 10-13

1. A Waiting Courier

An angel now speaks to Daniel to explain why there had been a delay.

The two are revealed again in Dan 12:5-6:

Daniel 12:5-6

⁵ Then I Daniel looked, and, behold, there stood other two, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river. ⁶ And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?

2. A Word of Compassion - You are greatly beloved!

3. A Wicked Conflict - vs. 12-13

3. A BENEFICIAL VICTORY – (vs. 12-19)

Daniel 10:12-19

¹² Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. ¹³ But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.

¹⁴ Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is

for many days. ¹⁵ And when he had spoken such words unto me, I set my face toward the ground, and I became dumb. ¹⁶ And, behold, one like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips: then I opened my mouth, and spake, and said unto him that stood before me, O my lord, by the vision my sorrows are turned upon me, and I have retained no strength. ¹⁷ For how can the servant of this my lord talk with this my lord? for as for me, straightway there remained no strength in me, neither is there breath left in me. ¹⁸ Then there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me, ¹⁹ And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me.

Some victories we claim are mere enjoyments, but when we enjoy the presence of God - IT IS LIFE CHANGING.

A. A Touch from Heaven - Three times, Daniel is touched

1. Vs. 10 - The angel Touched Daniel and lifted Him.

2. Vs. 16 - The angel Touched Daniel's lips and gave him boldness to speak.

Just as a seraphim did to Isaiah

Isaiah 6:7

⁷ *And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.*

3. Vs. 18 - The Angel touched him and gave him strength - “to strengthen, sustain, encourage”

B. A Trust From Heaven - vs. 19 - A new Strength!

Psalms 29:11

¹¹ *The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace.*

Isaiah 12:2

² *Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.*

Colossians 1:10

¹⁰ *That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;*

We do not always know His way, we cannot always see His hand, but we can always trust His love!

Close:

We are not in an age where there is an open vision

Why?

Daniel had no church to attend, no Bible to read, so God appeared as He had to Abraham

For us we can find rest in God's Word and His promises.

We can also find rest in the Provisions of God: When God has given us His Word, with all of its promises and prophecies

Why would he appear to us when we do not read and heed what He has already given?