

**FAMILY LIFE CHURCH OF THE VALLEY
LIFE GROUP - RIVERSIDE COUNTY**

TITLE: UNSHAKABLE

SESSION EIGHT: THE KIND OF PRAYER GOD ANSWERS

**KEY VERSE: “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 I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”
2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)**

CHECKING IN:

Last week we talked about the importance of daily conversation with God, and how our consistent conversations with God help us to stand boldly for God. How did things go this week? How was your prayer life this week? How did prayer help you approach each day?

This week we’re going to talk about the kind of prayer that God answers. As we trust God to answer our prayers, our faith will mature and become unshakeable.

HOW TO PRAY IN A CRISIS

1.) Let God speak to me before _____.

It was the first year of the reign of Darius the Mede, the son of Ahasuerus, who became king of the Babylonians.^[a] During the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, learned from reading the word of the LORD, as revealed to Jeremiah the prophet, that Jerusalem must lie desolate for seventy years.
Daniel 9:1-2 (NLT)

“For this is what the LORD says: ‘When Babylon’s seventy years are completed, I’ll take note of you and will fulfill my good promises to you by bringing you back to this place. For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans for well-being, and not for calamity, in order to give you a future and a hope. When you call out to me and come and pray to me, I’ll hear you.’
Jeremiah 29:10-12 (ISV)

Two Factors to Fulfilling My Purpose in Life:

- _____
- _____

You do not have what you want
Because you do not ask God for it.
James 4:2b (GNT)

SESSION EIGHT: THE KIND OF PRAYER GOD ANSWERS (Cont.)

2.) Focus _____ on God.

Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him
Daniel 9:3a (ESV)

I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me.
Proverbs 8:17 (NIV)

“You will . . . find me when you seek me with all your heart.”
Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV)

[God] rewards those who earnestly seek him.
Hebrews 11:6b (NIV)

“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and he will give
You everything you need.”
Luke 12:31 (NLT)

3.) Express my desires with _____.

[I] looked to [God] for help. I prayed, pleaded
Daniel 9:3b (GW)

I poured out my heart, baring my soul to God, my God.
Daniel 9:3b (The Message)

“The people of Israel and Judah will come together. They will
Cry and look for the Lord their God. Those people will ask
How to go to Jerusalem and will start in that direction.”
Jeremiah 50:4b-5a (NCV)

4.) Demonstrate my _____.

As I prayed, I fasted and wore rough sackcloth, and I
Sprinkled myself with ashes.
Daniel 9:3c (TLB)

5.) Thank God for his _____.

SESSION EIGHT: THE KIND OF PRAYER GOD ANSWERS (Cont.)

I prayed . . . “O Lord you are a great and awesome God!
You always fulfill your covenant and keep your promises
Of unfailing love to those who love you and obey your commands.”
Daniel 9:4 (NLT)

“Lord God, you are merciful and forgiving, even though we
Have rebelled against you.”
Daniel 9:9 (CEV)

6.) _____ my sin.

But we have sinned and done wrong. We have rebelled against you and scorned your commands and regulations. We have refused to listen to your servants the prophets, who spoke on your authority to our kings and princes and ancestors and to all the people of the land.

Daniel 9:5-6 (NLT)

we are covered with shame . . . because of our unfaithfulness to you. We and our kings, our princes and our ancestors are covered with shame, LORD, because we have sinned against you.

Daniel 9:7-8 (NIV)

“We paid no attention to you when you told us how to live, the clear teaching that came through your servants the prophets.”

Daniel 9:10 (The Message)

“We kept on sinning, never giving you a second thought, oblivious to your clear warnings, and so you had no choice to let the disaster loose on us in full force . . . since we persistently and defiantly ignore you.”

Daniel 9:13b-14 (The Message)

God ‘s Response to Daniel

Even while I was praying and confessing my sin and the sins of my people, desperately pleading with the Lord my God for Jerusalem, his holy mountain, Gabriel, whom I had seen in the earlier vision, flew swiftly to me at the time of the evening sacrifice and said to me, “Daniel, I am here to help you understand God’s plans. The moment you began praying a command was given. I am here to tell you what it was, for God loves you very much.

Daniel 9:20-23a (TLB)

SESSION EIGHT: THE KIND OF PRAYER GOD ANSWERS (Cont.)

God's Promise to his People

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 I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

1.) The first step of "How to pray in a crisis" is to let God speak to you before you speak to him. Why is that important? What difference could that make in your prayers, and even in your perspective on the "crisis"?

2.) Why do you think we sometimes hold back on our emotions when we pray to God? Why do we hesitate to state our desires and dreams to God, or to express our frustrations and anger to him?

3.) Why would the Bible warn us against saying prayers with words and phrases that we repeated over and over again? (Hint: It's a conversation.)

4.) How have you seen your prayers and God's timing interact with each other?
