

**O Lord  
Pay Attention  
And Act**

5-31-20

Daniel 9:19 (ESV)

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

**Daniel says, “O Lord pay attention and act!” Whoa! However, he doesn’t stop there, he says, “Delay not!” Ok that seems a little presumptive! Then Daniel says why he is being so presumptive. It is “For YOUR own sake, O my God, because YOUR people are called by YOUR name.” Why is he praying this way and what is the purpose of his prayer? What can we learn from the prayer of this mighty man of God?**

Daniel 9:2 (ESV)

I, Daniel, perceived in **“the books” (The Bible)** the number of years that, **according to the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet**, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, **seventy years**.

**Daniel is praying this way because of something he read in Scripture. Scripture is God’s breathed out Word. God will do what HE says HE will do. Therefore, Daniel prayed, “O Lord pay attention and act based on what you said!” Daniel said to God, “YOUR reputation is at stake.” Not only that, Daniel said that the reputation of God’s people is at stake. This is like us saying, “God I read what YOU said in the Bible and I am going out on a limb to do what you said.” God honors Daniel for being so bold to ask God to pay attention to HIS OWN Word and thus act.**

Specifically, Daniel was reading the book of Jeremiah. Daniel read that the Jews would return from exile in 70 years. Daniel prays asking God to explain this to him. Not only does God answer him, but God honors him and goes farther to reveal End Times prophecies including the first and second comings of Jesus. **God is concerned about HIS reputation and our reputation.** When we seek to understand God's Word, HE will answer us and will reveal to us more than we ever imagined. God's heart's desire is that HIS people would search out the hidden things of HIS Word

Proverbs 25:2 (ESV)

It is the glory of God to conceal things,  
but the glory of kings is to search things out.

**God will honor our commitment and as he did with Daniel. These prayers God will answer immediately.**

Daniel 9:21-22 (ESV)

<sup>21</sup> While I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the first, came to me in swift flight at the time of the evening sacrifice. <sup>22</sup> He made me understand, speaking with me and saying, "O Daniel, I have now come out to give you insight and understanding."

**God love us and desires for us to understand HIS Word for HIS sake and our sake.**

Daniel 9:23 (ESV)

At the beginning of your pleas for mercy a word went out, and I have come to tell it to you, for you are greatly loved.

**Even if we do not receive our answer immediately, we still know God is acting immediately!**

Daniel 10:12 (ESV)

Then he said to me, “Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words.”

Our spoken word is heard, and God acts because of our words. If there seems to be a delay in God’s response, we should understand that God must put certain things into place before HE can answer our specific prayer. When we pray God “immediately” starts putting things in order on earth and in heaven!

Daniel 10:13-14 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, <sup>14</sup> and came to make you understand what is going to happen!

**Not only must God put things in order, God also has to prepare us to receive HIS answer.**

John 16:12

I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

We need the wisdom to discern all the ramification of our prayers. God teaches us through life experiences, natural education, and human discipline. [The Holy Spirit will use all these disciplines to help us to understand what God has written in the Bible.](#)

Daniel 10:21 (ESV)

I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth (The Bible)!

People are fooled by charlatans all the time. People loving God often do foolish things. People receive and act on erroneous words of prophesy! [Therefore, it is necessary for each of us to study the Word of God. We have a responsibility.](#) We must do what God told Joshua:

Joshua 1:8 (ESV)

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

**When we take the Words give to Joshua as our own, we can pray as Daniel, “O Lord, pay attention and act.”** The first point of understanding that God revealed to us, we share with confidence and strength:

John 14:6 (ESV)

Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”