

# **“Why Pray When God Has Already Promised?!”**

## **January 10, 2016**

### **Sermon Outline**

#### **1. What’s The Most Popular Verse In The Contemporary Church— Jeremiah 29:11???**

“Daniel, understood from the Scriptures [literally: “the scrolls”], according to the word of the Lord given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years” (Daniel 9:2).

“This is what the Lord says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you...” (Jeremiah 29:10-11a)

#### **2. Why Pray When God Has Already Promised?**

#### **3. What Is Prayer?**

Really, really important to believe: God deeply desires that we pray, talk, communicate with Him.

Prayer is not us asking God to do in our lives what we want Him to do in our lives but rather prayer is asking God to do in our lives what He wants to do in our lives.

#### **4. What Do We Notice About Daniel’s Prayer?**

- i. Daniel’s prayer compares the LORD / YHWH and His people
- ii. Daniel is not pointing his fingers at “others,” he is not making excuses and he identifies with the sinful people.
- iii. Daniel’s prayer is full of references to other parts of the Bible (Deuteronomy, Exodus, etc.)

#### **5. What Is The Movement Of Prayer?**

- i. Word: we find out what God wants to do in our lives.
- ii. Prayer: we pray for God to do what He wants to do in our lives.
- iii. Thanks / Worship: we praise God when we see Him do what He wants to do in our lives.

## **Digging Deeper (For Further Study)**

1. Read Daniel 9:1-19 again  
What are your lingering questions and /or observations about this passage?
2. What was helpful about this morning's message? What was not helpful or confusing?
3. In his message Pastor Jo said that "prayer is not getting God to do in our lives what we want done but rather prayer is asking God to do in our lives what He wants done."  
Do you think that's true?  
Is that your experience of prayer?
4. The message suggested that there is a 3-part movement to prayer: (1) Word, (2) Prayer, and (3) Worship  
Do you think this is true?  
Do you think all prayers should follow this movement?
5. What is your typical habit / rhythm of prayer?
6. What is your favourite prayer in the Bible?

## **Additional Recommended Resources**

- *Praying The Bible*, Donald S. Whitney
- "Praying The Psalms," NT Wright:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aSb62xG9om0>
- "Does Prayer Really change Things," Tim Keller:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J\\_rViLK1vG4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_rViLK1vG4)