

A Daniel:

❖ Praying in dangerous times

- Because of his trust in God, Daniel received intelligence, the ability to interpret dreams, and wisdom (Dan. 1:8, 17, 20). When his life and the lives of his friends were in danger, he turned to God in prayer (Dan. 2:17-23).
- After a life of prayer, what characteristics had Daniel acquired (Dan. 6:3-5)?
- Heaven was attentive to Daniel's prayer (Dan. 9:20-23; 10:12). Only by breaking this bond could his enemies harm him (Dan. 6:5-7).
- Faced with this new threat of death, Daniel maintained his prayer habits (Dan. 6:10):
 - (1) He was consistent, praying three times a day
 - (2) It was predictable, opening its window towards Jerusalem
 - (3) He had specific habits; he prayed on his knees.
 - (4) It focused on thanksgiving and supplication

❖ Pray in the proper posture

- When we pray, we speak to God as if we were speaking to a friend. However, God is not like us. He is the King of the Universe.
- For this reason, Daniel's custom was to kneel before Him to pray, acknowledging Him as his Sovereign.
- Since we can pray to God in any circumstance and at any time, it is not always possible or necessary to do so in this way.
- Closing our eyes allows us to concentrate more on prayer, but in some circumstances it is not possible (walking, driving, etc.)
- The important thing is that our prayers are made with the respect that God deserves.
- In the Bible we find examples of people who prayed in different ways, according to their special circumstances.
 - (1) Jehoshaphat prayed standing before the people (2 Chronicles 20:5)
 - (2) David sat before God to give thanks (2 Samuel 7:18)
 - (3) Solomon prayed kneeling, with his hands raised (1 Kings 8:54)
 - (4) The people bowed down to the ground to pray (Neh. 8:6)
 - (5) David prayed prostrate on his bed (1 Kings 1:47)
 - (6) Nehemiah stood and prayed silently before the king (Neh. 2:1-4)
- Regardless of our stance, the Bible urges us to pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17), perseveringly (Col. 4:2) and constantly (Rom. 12:12).

B Enoch:

❖ A life of prayer

- Enoch lived in difficult times, when the wickedness of the antediluvians was increasing. With the birth of his son, his understanding of God expanded, and his communion with Him intensified (Gen. 5:21-24).
- Prayer was an important factor in that relationship. The more intense and urgent his work became, the more constant and fervent his prayers were. At times, he would withdraw to secluded places to be more in communion with God. However, he always returned to the people to share his knowledge of God with them.
- God hears us both in the hustle and bustle of daily life and in the quiet of retreat. There is no place on Earth where He cannot see and hear us. We can express our prayer with words (which helps us concentrate), or we can do so in silence (which helps us express our thoughts). The important thing is to never stop communicating with God in prayer.

C Moses:

❖ Talking to God

- Upon hearing God's voice speaking from Sinai, the people of Israel asked that He not speak to them directly again, because they feared to die because of His voice (Ex. 20:18-19).
- This was not the case with Moses, who spoke with God face to face (Deut. 34:10). For 40 years (from the burning bush until his death), Moses and God had regular personal dialogues (Ex. 33:9-11).
- The Bible records several forty-day periods during which God gave Moses specific instructions on building the tabernacle and communicated various laws to him. During these dialogues, Moses also interceded for the people.
- We do not have the privilege of speaking to God face to face, but prayer fills that gap by allowing us to communicate directly with Him.

❖ Intercessory prayer

- Intercessory prayer is that in which we pray on behalf of other people (James 5:16; Matthew 5:44; 1 Timothy 2:1-4).
- Moses interceded with God for others on various occasions and for different reasons:
 - (1) For their families
 - (a) Because of Aaron 's sin (Deut. 9:20)
 - (b) Because of Mary's murmuring (Num. 12:10-13)
 - (2) For the people
 - (a) When they were thirsty (Ex. 15:24-25)
 - (b) When they were hungry (Num. 11:11-13)
 - (c) When they sinned (Ex. 32:30-32)
- What motivated Moses to pray for others? The same thing that should motivate us: love for those we pray for.