

1. Prayer is a posture that looks to God as authority.

Prayer is reliance upon God. “To Seth, also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time men began to call upon the Name of the Lord, Genesis 4:26.”

“If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land, 2 Chronicles 7:14.”

“Ask and it shall be given to you...how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him! Matthew 7:11”

**Prayer is the nerve that moves the muscle of
God. – Sammy Tippet**

2. Prayer anchors itself in reality.

Perspective is defined as a way of regarding something. Perspective then is most helpful when it reveals reality. My surgeon demands the best x-ray, sonogram, or MRI to determine his course of action. He wants his determining way of regarding something, in this case my physical injury, to be accurate. Perspective accuracy demands a true lens.

When I look at a clear night sky with the naked eye my perspective is dots of light. But when I look through the lens of my Dobsonian telescope I see the beauty of Jupiter and its’ moons. I gasp at the splendor of a ringed Saturn. My mouth drops in amazement at the fireball of Venus. I stare with captivating intrigue at the mountains and craters on the Moon. I maneuver through the galaxies because of the fixed position of constellations. **The lens of my telescope has changed my perspective of the night skies. I now see what is real rather than what I imagined. My conclusion to reality is there must be an intelligent designer who created what I see.**

The lens of God’s Word¹, the Bible, records God himself questioning the man Job. God asks, “Can you bind the

chains of the Pleiades or loose the cords of Orion?”² Job would have to reply, “- of course not!” Only the Creator, “who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span,...”³ has that ability. When you look at the skies you begin to grasp indeed that “the heavens declare the glory of God.”⁴

Prayer brings us to the reality of the Lord God our Creator and Redeemer.

“Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace in time of need, Hebrews 4: 14-16.”

There a personal caring God in heaven, who is our Creator, that keeps His word! That is the lens presented by general revelation of all that we see around us in creation and the special revelation of Scripture.

**TRUTH WILL STAND UP TO ALL THE SCRUTINY
IN THE WORLD – EVEN IN A POST-TRUTH AGE!**

3. Pray withstands the greatest adversity!

As his nation stood in ruins, Daniel stood on God!

The prophet Daniel, one of Israel’s finest young men, was captured and exiled to Babylon as Nebuchadnezzar overthrew and destroyed Jerusalem. Daniel stood before the self-appointed god-king Nebuchadnezzar at a God appointed moment and declared to him, “There is a God in heaven...”⁵ His prayer for his nation in Daniel 9 is a powerful and timely template.

- He takes ownership of His nation’s sin.
- He repents to God on behalf of His nation.
- He asks God for His mercy to flow to His nation.

Why would Daniel in that situation and circumstance give so much trust in the God who allowed his nation to be taken over in Exile?

¹ Other lenses, such as naturalism, atheism, scientism struggle to bring into focus the origin of the design found in the heavens, DNA, a world of order, natural laws, the position and stability of the earth in the solar system (anthropic principle) and the reality of personhood.

² Job 38:31

³ Isaiah 40:12

⁴ Psalm 19:1

⁵ Daniel 2:28

The short answer: God kept His word!

This past December my wife and I spent two weeks taking a history and geography course in Israel. The land of Israel today occupies a portion of the historical earthly stage where God the Son walked on this earth. I stood in the very airspace King Solomon lived. It was just outside the Southern wall of the historic old city of Jerusalem just above the old City of David. Solomon was given the privilege to build the “house of the Lord” the Temple on Mount Moriah. This was exactly where Abraham had brought Isaac, Genesis 22. It was where God provided the Lamb for the sacrifice. Can you imagine the joy in Solomon’s heart when that Temple project was completed? What did God say to him? We do not have to imagine, because God has written down the very words He spoke to Solomon at that moment.

“Thus Solomon finished the house of the Lord and the king’s house... Then the Lord appeared to Solomon in the night and said to him: “I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice. When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place. ...But if you turn aside and forsake my statutes and my commandments that I have set before you, and go and serve others and worship them, then I will pluck you up from the land that I have given you, and this house that I have consecrated for my name, I will cast out of my sight, and I will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples. And at this house, which was exalted, everyone passing by will be astonished and say, ‘Why has the Lord done thus to this land and to this house?’ Then they will say, ‘Because they abandoned the Lord, the God of their fathers who brought them up out of the land of Egypt, and laid hold on other gods and worshiped them and served them. Therefore he has brought all this disaster on them, 2 Chronicles 7:11-22.”

Why was Daniel in Babylon?

Daniel was in Babylon, because God kept his Word. Israel did not listen to the instruction God gave them. The exile of Israel to Babylon for 70 years was the direct result of turning away from the true God to worship other gods. God will not be mocked. He keeps His word!

He also mercifully will forgive and heal when His people repent and seek His face. It is your surrender and walk with the Lord in your marketplace that will impact America and Americans!

But God also kept His Word to restore Israel back from Babylon. “For thus says the Lord: When Seventy Years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place, Jeremiah 29:10.”

Titus 1:2 declares “God, who never lies...”

It was this lens (that God keeps His word) that brought Daniel to the Lord God for his nation in prayer. Daniel 9 records his perspective and prayer and it begins with “O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant...”

It is that lens that should lead you to the Lord in prayer for America.

“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much,... James 5:16.”

“First of all then I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, I Timothy 2:1-6a.”

[www.pray1Tim2.org is a prayer tool guiding you how to pray God’s way for your leaders. It also allows you to interact with them.]

Do you believe God keeps His word? Then pray!
You are talking to the awesome real ultimate authority!

*My greatest concern is not that God is on our side, but rather that we are on His!
– Abraham Lincoln*