



## The Lord Heard You

*“Then he continued, “Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. 13 But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.” Daniel 10:12-13 KJV*

As Christian believers, as saints of the Most High God, we have been given the awesome privilege of praying to our Father in heaven. Much work is done, and many victories are won on our knees in prayer. So, prayer is definitely a mighty weapon! We should expect to receive an answer to prayer and we really should not be astonished when we get an answer because the Lord promised us that if we call upon Him, that he would answer. Sometimes answers to prayer come immediately and sometimes we have to wait. It is the waiting that tries us. If the wait is too long, discouragement sets in and we think that God does not care about us. But have we stopped to consider that the answers to our prayers were delayed by hostile demonic forces? This is the setting in Daniel Chapter 10.

Chapter 10 opens in the third year of Cyrus, king of Persia, and it was also two years after King Cyrus issued the edict for the Jews to return from Babylonian captivity and rebuild Jerusalem. It was sometime in this third year that Daniel had a dream and the message of the dream was true but the appointed time was long. This was the last vision in a series of visions that Daniel had been given concerning the Jewish people. He was given the vision but initially he lacked understanding, so he set his heart to seek God for an understanding through fasting and praying or "mourning" according to verse 2. He humbled himself before God because he was concerned about his people.

There were many concerns about the Jews returning to Jerusalem and much of the details about their return is described in the book of Ezra. Daniel was concerned that not

all of the Jews had returned to Jerusalem and feared this revealed a spiritual apathy. He was also worried that the rebuilding of the city was going so slowly. He was concerned about what the returning Jews faced: harassment from renegade Jews; discouragement from leaders; apathy from the people. He had even heard that some Jews were marrying foreign wives, falling right back into the sin that had put them into captivity in the first place. So, Daniel spent three weeks

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laboring in prayer, and it looked like the answer was not coming. The first week of days went by. No word. For some saints, the trial of a week without an answer would prove too much to bear and they would quit. Not Daniel, he kept praying and fasting. The second week went by. No answer. Now by this time, some saints would have grown frustrated and concluded that maybe God didn't care. Not Daniel, he kept praying and fasting. I wonder if we are as persistent as Daniel? So, here we are rounding out the third week and still no answer from heaven. Now is a good time to remind you that it's not what it looks like. Why? Because verse 4 tells us that on the four and twenty-fourth day of the first month, Daniel was walking by the river Hiddekel or Tigris and he lifted up his eyes and he looked. There is somebody reading this that needs to lift up your eyes and look.

It was then that Daniel beheld the vision of a certain man clothed in linen whose loins were girded with fine gold of Uphaz. This was no ordinary man and most likely he was an angelic being. Some commentators believe that this man is either the pre-incarnate Christ because of the way that he is described; there is a similar description in Revelation 1:13-15, and some believe that he is the angel Gabriel. However, this man is not given a name in this passage. Now, Daniel was the only one to see this vision. The men that were with him, did not see him but were stricken with terror and they all ran away and hid. There are some things the Lord will only let you see. It is for your eyes only! The angel began to speak and when Daniel heard the sound of his words, it caused him to fall into a deep sleep with his face towards the ground. Then the angel reached out and touched him, he came to his knees and the angel began to speak to Daniel: " O Daniel, a man greatly beloved!" Meaning, "I want you to understand what I am getting ready to say. Stand up!" He said, "Unto thee I am now

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sent."

Daniel is standing there trembling and the angel then says, "Fear not!" Just to put him at ease. The angel then says something that we need to grab hold to. He said that from the first day that Daniel set his heart to understand and humble himself before God, his words were heard. It was the first day! Three weeks ago, the Lord heard when you first opened your mouth to speak, while you were speaking!

This was not the first time that it happened for Daniel. Daniel 9:23 says, "At the beginning of thy supplications, the commandment came forth," this lets us know that God does hear and answer prayer. It lets us know that even what we prayed on yesterday, last week, last month, last year, the first time we prayed about that situation, that condition, that

job, whatever it is, God heard your words! However, in verse 13 we find the enemy fighting hard against the answer. There was a reason that the message was not immediately delivered to Daniel as soon as God heard it. The enemy, the prince of Persia, tried to intercept this message so that it would never make it to Daniel. He was the one that withstood the angel for 21 days.

That's just like Satan, trying to block deliverance! Certainly, this message had to be of great importance for it to be fought over for 21 days which was the same amount of time that Daniel fasted and prayed! This message was the revelation of the future of the Jewish people for the next 300-400 years. But Daniel's prayers prevailed and thus the angel prevailed because we know that the "weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds" according to II Corinthians 10:4. And Ephesians 6:12 also tells us "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." It was at that moment when Michael the archangel, one of the chief princes, came to help in this battle against the Prince of Persia that this angel was able to break away and deliver news of Daniel's breakthrough! It was long in coming but it finally arrived.

Patience in waiting for, as well as faith in expecting, the answer, are both necessary in the matter of prayer. But because Daniel knew his God, Daniel knew to keep praying. James 5:16 tells us that the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Now what would have happened if Daniel would have stopped praying and fasting? The message might not have been delivered. Have you stopped praying? If so, get back on your knees. There is still time for the tide to turn. Have you been waiting for a long time for that answer to come? O, man of God; O woman of God, you who are greatly beloved, understand the words that are spoken unto you! Fear not, for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard. Let me encourage you today! It's not what it looks like! Don't stop praying!