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오늘의 말씀

“Prayer That Moves Heaven”

[Ephesians 6:18]

[Daniel 10:10~14] Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands.

(11) And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling. (12) Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.

(13) "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. (14) "Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come."

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Introduction ~ What Actually Happens in Heaven When I Pray?

Dear brothers and sisters, Last Sunday we learned that prayer is the final weapon in spir-itual warfare. But this raises an important question: "What actually happens when I pray?" Many believers pray, yet never truly experience the power of prayer because they see only what is visible. However, the Bible tells us that whenever God's people pray, real things happen in the unseen world.

Exposition

God heard Daniel's prayer on the very first day, and He answered it on that very first day.

[Daniel 10:12] Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.

The key phrase here is "from the first day." Daniel's prayer was not answered twenty-one days later. It was answered on the very first day.

Many believers assume that if the answer is delayed, God must not have heard them. But He already has. Our God hears even our smallest sighs.

Yet there is an important distinction between God hearing and answering our prayers and that answer actually arriving in our lives. Why? Because there are spiritual forces in the heavenly realm that oppose the work of God.

[Daniel 10:13] "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.

Who is the "prince of the kingdom of Persia"? This is not merely an earthly king. It re-fers to a spiritual power operating behind both the kingdom and its ruler. Paul de-scribes this unseen hierarchy in Ephesians.

[Ephesians 6:12] For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wick-edness in the heavenly places.

The "rulers," "authorities," "powers of this dark world," and "spiritual forces of evil" are real beings in the unseen realm. Daniel chapter 10 gives us a living illustration of what Paul teaches in Ephesians chapter 6.

This passage shows that our prayers set tremendous movements into motion in the spir-itual realm. The moment Daniel began to pray, heaven began to move.

Like us, Daniel had no idea what his prayers were accomplish-ing in the unseen world. He simply prayed. But the moment he prayed, God commissioned His messenger to bring Daniel an answer.

That is when a spiritual battle began. Evil powers resisted and detained the heavenly messenger. During that delay, the angel says he remained among "the kings of Persia." We do not need to speculate beyond what Scripture reveals about who these "kings" were. We have already seen the "prince of Persia," Michael, "one of the chief princes," and the ranks of spiritual beings described in Ephesians 6. It is most natural to under-stand these "kings of Persia" as part of that same realm of evil spiritual powers under Satan's authority.

The greatest lesson of this story is this: the moment you begin to pray, heaven be-gins to move. God sent His messenger. Satan attempted to hinder that messenger. Evil spirits joined in resisting him. Finally, God sent Michael, the great prince, and the mes-senger was released to deliver God's answer to Daniel.

Dear brothers and sisters, many believers grow weary because of the burdens of life. Like Daniel, they often have no idea how significant their prayers really are. We wonder, "Can prayers offered by ordinary people like us really make any difference?"

But God knows. The angels know. Even Satan knows. Ironically, the only ones who often do not know are the very people who are praying. Sometimes I imagine what happens in heaven the moment one of God's children kneels to pray. Even if our prayers are not eloquent or impressive, perhaps heaven begins preparing for God's work. I can almost imagine the angels saying, "Hey, Gabriel, let's get ready. One of God's children has be-gun to pray. The Lord may send us on another assignment. Michael, be ready—you may need to step in." Of course, this is only my imagination, not a direct statement of Scripture. Yet I believe it beautifully reflects the spiritual reality the Bible reveals. Isn't that a wonderful thought? That is why we pray.

Another lesson from this passage is the importance of never giving up in prayer. Why twenty-one days? Personally, I believe God was also training Daniel through this delay.

The answer was sent on the first day but arrived twenty-one days later. Surely God could have sent Michael immediately to release His messenger. Yet He waited until the twenty-first day.

So Daniel prayed on day one. He prayed on day ten. He prayed on day twenty. Then, on the twenty-first day, the answer arrived.

I believe many believers quit praying on the twentieth day. But sometimes God's answer comes on the twenty-first. Let us remember several examples of persistent prayer throughout Scripture.

First is Jacob wrestling with God at the Jabbok River (Genesis 32). Even after his hip was dislocated, he refused to let go. Looking back, Jacob could not return because of Mizpah. Looking ahead, Esau terrified him. Prayer was his only way forward.

[Genesis 32:26] And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!"

We also remember Jesus' parable of the persistent widow and

the unjust judge. Jesus told this story to teach us that we should always pray and never lose heart.

[Luke 18:1] Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,

Elijah is another wonderful example. After three and a half years of drought, he prayed seven times for rain. He refused to quit. Even a cloud the size of a man's hand was enough for him to recognize God's answer. We cannot speak about prayer without remembering Elijah.

One more truth deserves our attention: Daniel's prayer was not for himself. It was intercessory prayer for the future of God's people.

Intercessory prayer includes praying for our families, our children, our church, our nation, our pastors, and others. It is prayer offered on behalf of people and for the work of God.

Those who intercede become fellow workers with God. Intercessory prayer stands in the gap against Satan's attacks on others. It requires tremendous spiritual strength. Scripture gives us remarkable examples of such prayer. One of the greatest is Moses. When Israel worshiped the golden calf and God's judgment was declared, Moses pleaded for the people, even asking that his own name be removed from God's book if only Israel might be forgiven (Exodus 32).

We also see the early church praying for Peter when he was imprisoned (Acts 12:5). The prison doors opened. An angel led Peter out. The guards saw nothing. Peter went to the house where the church had been praying for him. Ironically, those who had prayed could hardly believe he was actually standing at the door. Yet God still answered their intercession. The same is true for us. The power of prayer does not come from us—it comes from the Lord. The church simply asks Him to pour out His power.

Dear brothers and sisters, Daniel never saw the spiritual battle.

He never saw Michael. He simply did one thing. He prayed. And God worked. The same is true for us. We do not understand everything that happens in the unseen world, but while we pray, God is at work.

Conclusion

Whenever we pray, God hears. Whenever we pray, heaven moves. Whenever we pray, God works. Therefore, let us never give up praying.

[Galatians 6:9] And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Let us ask ourselves:

- ~ Do I give up when God's answer seems delayed?
- ~ Am I an intercessor?
- ~ Do I truly believe in the unseen spiritual world?
- ~ Will I persevere in prayer until the end?

Prayer Points

- A. Lord, help me never to give up praying, even when I cannot yet see the answer.
- B. Make me a faithful intercessor.
- C. Help me pray faithfully for my family and my church.
- D. Make me a person whose prayers move heaven.