

## Next Week's Prayers



"...The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."

Jas. 5:16

### ▶ Prayer Exercise

This week, focus your prayers on serious confession. You might consider participating in a time of fasting to demonstrate the seriousness of confession both to yourself and to God.

Make a list of things you can think of that shows the contrast between ourselves and God.

In your prayers this week, ask specifically for God to continue working out his promises to us through Christ.



DEVELOPING STUDENTS  
OF THE BIBLE

Sunday Morning Bible Class



## ▶ 40 Great Prayers of the Bible

Farmerville  
Church of Christ

Daniel's Prayer of Confession  
Daniel 9:4-19

Prayer Study # 34

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Sunday Morning Bible Class

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# Daniel's Prayer of Confession

## Daniel 9:4-19

Daniel had been taken into Babylonian captivity in about 606 B.C. He distinguished himself in many ways, but none more so than his faithfulness to God throughout his lifetime. In his youth, he stood firmly in his faith, and on many occasions, he refused to bow to the pressures of his times, opting instead to follow God's will.

Now, as an old man (prob. In his 80's or more) he had seen a new world power arise. He turned to study the scriptures and discovered the time of Israel's captivity (70 years), from Jeremiah's prophecy. He knew the time for Israel's return was near, so he had great concern for his people. Thus his prayer here.

### What Can We Learn?

1. It is important that Daniel's prayer was motivated by a study of scripture.
2. Daniel's prayer was accompanied by fasting, and wearing sackcloth and ashes, symbols of grief and mourning.
3. Daniel's study reminded him, not just of Israel's return to the promised land, but the reason they were taken from it to start with.
4. Daniel made repeated use of the pronouns "I, we and our." (40+ times in this prayer. His prayer was intensely personal; humble and confessional.
5. Daniel's confession of sin is specific with regard to the kinds of sins of which he and his people were guilty.
6. Daniel makes a clear contrast between the goodness and righteousness of God and the sinfulness of the people.
7. Daniel remembered God's deliverance in times past, and calls upon God to do the same again.
8. His climactic plea is for God to save Israel for his own name's sake.

### Questions to Ponder

1. Have you ever experienced an intense desire to pray following a particular study of something in the Bible? If so, share it with the class.
2. Fasting is frequently mentioned in connection with prayer. Though no verse in the Bible demands that we fast, it seems that fasting was assumed to be something we would practice. Why do you think modern Christians seldom fast, and how do you think we could encourage the practice?
3. How important do you think it is that we confess both our personal sins and that of our nation?
4. What "kind" of sins would you list if making confession for our nation?
5. How would you contrast God with the church today?
6. In what ways would God glorify himself today by showing mercy and forgiveness to us? Is his salvation still performed for his own name's sake? Discuss how this might be true.

