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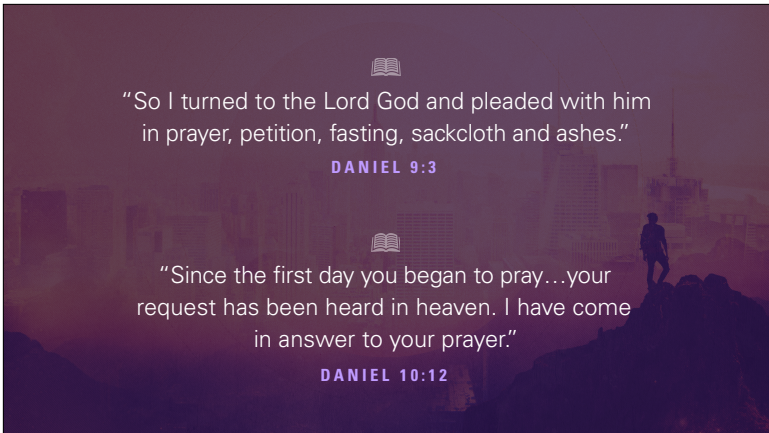
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**BENDING THE FUTURE**

**1) Bending the future in prayer requires recognizing God's will.**



"In the first year of Darius, ruler of the Babylonian kingdom, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the Lord given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years."

**DANIEL 9:1-2**

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**Those whose prayers are most saturated with Scripture are most successful in prayer.**



"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."

**JOHN 15:7**

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**BENDING THE FUTURE**

**2) Bending the future in prayer requires reverencing God's majesty.**



"Lord, the great and awesome God."

**DANIEL 9:4**

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**When I reverence God, I not only ascribe to him indescribable majesty, I call to mind what he can do.**

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**BENDING THE FUTURE**

**3) Bending the future in prayer requires repentance of sin against God's holiness.**



"I prayed...and confessed (9:4) ... we have sinned ... done wrong ... been wicked ... rebelled (9:5) ... we have not listened (9:6) ... we are shame-faced ... unfaithful (9:7) ... we have disobeyed (9:10) ... we have transgressed..." (9:11)

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"If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened."

PSALM 66:18

**I will never bend God's ear if I don't rend my heart.**

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**BENDING THE FUTURE**

**4) Bending the future in prayer requires remembering God's mercy.**



"We do not make request of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy."

DANIEL 9:18

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**If God saved rebellious Israel at the Red Sea, he can save rebellious Portland today.**



"The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him."

DANIEL 9:9

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## BENDING THE FUTURE

5) Bending the future in prayer requires relying on God's zeal for his name.



"O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear and act! For your sake, O my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name."

DANIEL 9:19

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WE SHOULD PRAY  
IN GOD'S NAME,  
KNOWING THAT HE  
WILL DEFEND IT.

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## MY UTMOST CONFIDENCE

God will hear my prayer right away.



"While I was still praying, confessing mine and my people's sin, and making my request...Gabriel came to me in swift flight at the time of evening sacrifice. He said, 'Daniel ... as soon as you began to pray, an answer was given.'"

DANIEL 9:20-23

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"Then you will call on me and I will hear you."

JEREMIAH 29:12

There is no such thing as an unheard prayer.

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## MY UTMOST CONFIDENCE

**God's answer  
awaits my asking.**



"As soon as you began to pray  
an answer was given."

DANIEL 9:23

"God won't answer 100 percent of the  
prayers you don't pray."

MARK BATTERSON

**God is never put off  
by what I pray!**

God is most pleased when I  
believe enough in his generosity  
that I am willing to ask.

**When I understand that I can  
bend God's ear, I will begin to  
bend the future.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed  
be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done  
In earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

And forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
And the glory, for ever.

MATTHEW 6:9-13

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## THRIVING IN BABYLON

PART 11

BENDING GOD'S EAR TO  
BEND THE FUTURE

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