

## HOW TO PRAY IN A CRISIS

Seeking God for a Breakthrough  
Rick Warren

### DANIEL 9:1-23: HOW TO PRAY IN A CRISIS

1.

#### READ YOUR BIBLE FIRST

"It was the first year of the reign of Darius the Mede . . . who became king of the Babylonians. During the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, learned from reading the word of the LORD, as revealed to Jeremiah the prophet, that Jerusalem must lie desolate for seventy years." Daniel 9:1-2 (NLT)

"For the Lord says, 'Only when the seventy years of Babylonian rule are over will I again take up consideration for you. Then I will fulfill my gracious promise to you and restore you to your homeland.'" Jeremiah 29:10 (NET)

"I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future." Jeremiah 29:11 (NCV)

"In those days when you pray, I will listen." Jeremiah 29:12 (NLT)

**2 FACTORS:** \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

2.

"Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him." Daniel 9:3 (ESV)

"So I gave my attention to the Lord God, to seek Him by prayer." Daniel 9:3 (NASB)

3.

"And I prayed earnestly to the Lord God, pleading with him." Daniel 9:3 (GNT)

"I poured out my heart, baring my soul to GOD." Daniel 9:3 (MSG)

"The people of Israel and the people of Judah together will go in tears to seek the LORD their God." Jeremiah 50:4 (NIV)

"They will ask the way to Jerusalem and will start back home again." Jeremiah 50:5 (NLT)

4.

"I turned to the Lord God and prayed and asked him for help. To show my sadness, I fasted, put on rough cloth, and sat in ashes." Daniel 9:3 (NCV)

### WHY FAST?

5.

"O Lord, you are a great and awesome God! You always fulfill your covenant and keep your promises of unfailing love to those who love you and obey your commands." Daniel 9:4 (NLT)

"You are merciful and forgiving, although we have rebelled against you." Daniel 9:9 (GNT)

6.

"But we have sinned and done wrong. We have rebelled against you and scorned your commands and regulations. We have refused to listen to your servants the prophets, who spoke on your authority to our kings and princes and ancestors and to all the people of the land." Daniel 9:5-6 (NLT)

"We have rejected what you commanded us to do." Daniel 9:5 (GNT)

"We have ignored the message." Daniel 9:6 (CEV)

"All the Israelites whom you scattered in countries near and far are still ashamed because we have been unfaithful to you. We, our kings, leaders, and ancestors are ashamed because we have sinned against you, LORD." Daniel 9:7-8 (GW)

"We paid no attention to you when you told us how to live, the clear teaching that came through your prophets." Daniel 9:10 (MSG)

"We kept at our sinning, never giving you a second thought, oblivious to your clear warning, and so you had no choice but to let the disaster loose on us in full force. You, our God, had a perfect right to do this since we persistently and defiantly ignored you." Daniel 9:13-14 (MSG)

"All the neighboring nations mock Jerusalem and your people." Daniel 9:16 (NLT)

"O my God . . . listen to my plea. . . . We don't ask because we merit help, but because you are so merciful." Daniel 9:18 (TLB)

### GOD'S RESPONSE TO DANIEL

"Even while I was praying and confessing my sin and the sins of my people, desperately pleading with the Lord . . . Gabriel, whom I had seen in the earlier vision . . . said to me, 'Daniel, I am here to help you understand God's plans. The moment you began praying a command was given. I am here to tell you what it was, for God loves you very much.'" Daniel 9:20-23 (TLB)

### GOD'S PROMISE TO HIS PEOPLE

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

## PRAYING AND FASTING FOR A BREAKTHROUGH

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*"When the Philistines heard that David had become king of Israel, they came to capture him. But David heard about their plan and marched out to meet them in battle. The Philistines had already camped in Rephaim Valley and were raiding the nearby villages. David asked God, 'Should I attack the Philistines? Will you help me win?' The Lord told David, 'Yes, attack them! I will give you victory.' David and his army marched to Baal-Perazim, where they attacked and defeated the Philistines. He said, 'I defeated my enemies because God broke through them like a mighty flood.' So he named the place 'The Lord Broke Through.'" 1 Chronicles 14:8-11 (CEV)*

*"After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites came to wage war against Jehoshaphat. Some people came and told Jehoshaphat, 'A vast army is coming against you.' . . . Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the Lord, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah. The people of Judah came together to seek help from the Lord; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him." 2 Chronicles 20:1-4 (NIV)*

### HOW? PHILIPPIANS 4:6-8

1. \_\_\_\_\_

*"Don't worry about anything." Philippians 4:6 (NLT)*

*"Don't fret or worry." Philippians 4:6 (MSG)*

  - WORRY IS \_\_\_\_\_ INSTEAD OF GOD.**

*"If people's thinking is controlled by the sinful self, there is death. But if their thinking is controlled by the Spirit, there is life and peace." Romans 8:6 (NCV)*
  - HOW DO I SWITCH MY FOCUS? \_\_\_\_\_**

*"I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and fasting." Daniel 9:3 (NLT)*

*"We fasted and earnestly prayed that our God would take care of us, and he heard our prayer." Ezra 8:23 (NLT)*
2. \_\_\_\_\_

*"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need." Philippians 4:6 (NLT)*

*"Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you." 1 Peter 5:7 (NLT)*

*"Every day I call to you and lift my hands to you in prayer." Psalm 88:9 (GNT)*



**LEFT: WHO to pray for**

Thumb: \_\_\_\_\_  
Index: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tallest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ring: \_\_\_\_\_  
Small: \_\_\_\_\_



**RIGHT: WHAT to pray**

Thumb: \_\_\_\_\_  
Index: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tallest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ring: \_\_\_\_\_  
Small: \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

*"In all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart." Philippians 4:6 (GNT)*

*"Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)*

*"I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving." Psalm 116:17 (NLT)*

### HOW?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

*"Tell the Lord how thankful you are." Psalm 118:1 (CEV)*
2. \_\_\_\_\_

*"Celebrate the Harvest Festival, to honor the LORD your God, by bringing him a freewill offering in proportion to the blessing he has given you." Deuteronomy 16:10 (GNT)*
3. \_\_\_\_\_

*"Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise." Philippians 4:8 (NLT)*

*"If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:7 (TLB)*

## HOW TO PRAY A BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER

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Jesus: "When you pray and ask for something, believe that you have received it, and you will be given whatever you ask for." Mark 11:24 (GNT)

THANKING GOD AFTER HE GIVES SOMETHING IS: \_\_\_\_\_

THANKING GOD BEFORE HE GIVE IT IS: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2 CHRONICLES 20:1-26

"After this, the Moabites and Ammonites, together with some of the Meunites, came to fight against Jehoshaphat. People came and told Jehoshaphat, 'A vast number from beyond the Dead Sea and from Edom has come to fight against you.' . . . Jehoshaphat was afraid, and he resolved to seek the LORD. Then he proclaimed a fast for all Judah, who gathered to see the LORD. They even came from all the cities of Judah to seek Him." 2 Chronicles 20:1-4 (HCSB)

"Jehoshaphat stood among them as they gathered at the new court of the Temple and prayed this prayer." 2 Chronicles 20:5 (TLB)

### HOW TO PRAY FOR A BREAKTHROUGH

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
"Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD." 2 Chronicles 20:3 (ESV)

• \_\_\_\_\_  
"LORD, the God of our ancestors, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you." 2 Chronicles 20:6 (NIV)

• \_\_\_\_\_  
"Our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel?" 2 Chronicles 20:7 (NIV)

• \_\_\_\_\_  
"You . . . gave the land to the descendants of Abraham, your friend, to be theirs forever." 2 Chronicles 20:7 (GNT)

• \_\_\_\_\_  
"O our God, won't you stop them? We are powerless against this mighty army that is about to attack us." 2 Chronicles 20:12 (NLT)

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
"We are powerless against this mighty army that is about to attack us. We do not know what to do, but we are looking to you for help." 2 Chronicles 20:12 (NLT)

"All the men of Judah stood before the LORD with their little ones, wives, and children." 2 Chronicles 20:13 (NLT)

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
"This is what the Lord says to you: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's. . . . You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you.' Jehoshaphat bowed down with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the Lord." 2 Chronicles 20:15, 17-18 (NIV)

### WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT YOUR BREAKTHROUGH:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
"The king appointed singers to walk ahead of the army, singing to the LORD and praising him for his holy splendor. This is what they sang: 'Give thanks to the LORD; his faithful love endures forever!'" 2 Chronicles 20:21 (NLT)

"Then he explained his plan and appointed men to march in front of the army and praise the LORD for his holy power by singing: 'Praise the LORD! His love never ends.'" 2 Chronicles 20:21 (CEV)

"And at the moment they began to sing and to praise, the Lord caused the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir to begin fighting among themselves, and they destroyed each other!" 2 Chronicles 20:22 (TLB)

5. \_\_\_\_\_  
"So, when the army of Judah arrived at the watchtower that looks out over the wilderness, as far as they could look there were dead bodies lying on the ground—not a single one of the enemy had escaped. King Jehoshaphat and his people went out to plunder the bodies and came away loaded with money, garments, and jewels stripped from the corpses—so much that it took them three days to cart it all away! On the fourth day they gathered in the Valley of Blessing, as it is called today, and how they praised the Lord!" 2 Chronicles 20:24-26 (TLB)

## TALKING TO YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER

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"One of [Jesus'] disciples said to Him, 'Lord, teach us to pray.' . . . So He said to them, 'When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven.'" Luke 11:1-2 (NKJV)

### Matthew 7:7-12

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened."* Matthew 7:7-8 (NLT)
  - WHEN I'M CLOSE TO MY FATHER, I JUST \_\_\_\_\_
  - WHEN I'M NOT CLOSE TO MY FATHER, I MUST \_\_\_\_\_
  - WHEN A BARRIER IS IN THE WAY, I \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead?"* Matthew 7:9 (NLT)
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Or if your child asks for a fish, would you give him a snake?"* Matthew 7:10 (GW)
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"And if you hard-hearted, sinful men know how to give good gifts to your children, won't your Father in heaven even more certainly give good gifts to those who ask him for them?"* Matthew 7:11 (TLB)
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Do for others what you want them to do for you: this is the meaning of the Law of Moses and of the teachings of the prophets."* Matthew 7:12 (GNT)

## FOR REVIEW

### Part 1: HOW TO PRAY IN A CRISIS

5 Steps from Daniel 9:1-23

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

### Part 2: PRAYING & FASTING FOR A PERSONAL BREAKTHROUGH

4 Keys

*"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done."* Philippians 4:6 (NLT)

*"Then God's peace, which goes beyond anything we can imagine, will guard your thoughts and emotions through Christ Jesus."* Philippians 4:7 (GW)

*"Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise."*  
Philippians 4:8 (NLT)

### Part 3: HOW TO PRAY A 'BREAKTHROUGH' PRAYER

(In situations that are beyond your control) 6 parts—2 Chronicles 20

*"Each day I lift my hands in prayer to you, LORD."* Psalm 88:9 (CEV)



#### LEFT: WHO to pray for

**Thumb:** Family & Friends

**Index:** Teachers & Leaders

**Tallest:** Influencers

**Ring:** The Weakest (Sick, Poor, Old, Kids)

**Small:** Myself



#### RIGHT: WHAT to pray

**Thumb:** My Own Heart

**Index:** My Priorities (What's #1?)

**Tallest:** My Influence

**Ring:** My Relationships

**Small:** Material Blessings

*Next Step*

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## WHY MUST I KEEP ON PRAYING PERSISTENTLY?

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*"Be persistent in prayer, and keep alert as you pray, giving thanks to God."*  
Colossians 4:2 (GNT)

*"Jesus told his disciples a story about how they should keep on praying and never give up."* Luke 18:1 (CEV)

### TWO STORIES OF JESUS:

The Persistent Friend: Luke 11:1-13

The Persistent Widow: Luke 18:1-8

- **The Contrast:** God listens and cares even if people don't!
- **The Point:** God is EAGER to answer your prayers!

### WHY DOES GOD WANT ME TO PRAY PERSISTENTLY?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"My eyes are continually toward the LORD. For He will rescue my feet from the net."* Psalm 25:15 (NASB)

*"Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always."* Psalm 105:4 (NIV)

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"I will test . . . and will purify them as silver is purified by fire. I will test them as gold is tested. Then they will pray to me, and I will answer them."* Zechariah 13:9 (GNT)

• **IT TESTS** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart."*  
Psalm 37:4 (NIV)

• **IT TESTS** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need."*  
Matthew 6:32-33 (NLT)

*"The LORD will withhold no good thing from those who do what is right."*  
Psalm 84:11 (NLT)

• **IT TESTS** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"God left [Hezekiah] on his own to see what he would do; he wanted to test his heart."* 2 Chronicles 32:31 (MSG)

*"Remember how the LORD your God led you through the wilderness for these forty years, humbling you and testing you to prove your character, and to find out whether or not you would obey his commands."* Deuteronomy 8:2 (NLT)

• **IT TESTS** \_\_\_\_\_  
*"For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."* Jeremiah 29:11 (TLB)

*"Let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up."* Galatians 6:9 (NLT)

### 4 WAYS GOD ANSWERS PRAYER

1. **WHEN MY REQUEST IS NOT RIGHT, GOD SAYS** \_\_\_\_\_

2. **WHEN I AM NOT RIGHT, GOD SAYS** \_\_\_\_\_

3. **WHEN THE TIMING IS NOT RIGHT, GOD SAYS** \_\_\_\_\_

4. **BUT WHEN MY REQUEST, MY CHARACTER, & THE TIMING ARE ALL LINED UP RIGHT, GOD SAYS** \_\_\_\_\_

*"Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere."* Ephesians 6:18 (NLT)

### Next Steps

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