

Prayer

Part 3

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Duration	00:49:31
Online version	https://www.audioteaching.org/en/sermons/fw019/prayer

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[00:00:00] Der dritte Teil der Serie von Frank Wallace Basenfeldmann, Oktober 1986.

Jetzt kommen wir zum Buch von Daniel. Daniel, Kapitel 2.

I think you're all acquainted with the early part of the chapter where King Nebuchadnezzar has a dream and he sends for his wise men to tell him the dream and not only to tell him but to give the interpretation of it which they were unable to do and so the king got very angry and he issued a decree that all the wise men in Babylon should be slain and that involved Daniel and his companions so we begin to read at verse 18 rather verse 17. Verse 17 of chapter 2. Then Daniel went [00:01:08] to his house and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah his companions that they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning the secret that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. Daniel answered and said blessed be the name of God forever and ever for wisdom and might are his and he changes the times and the seasons. He removeth kings and setteth up kings. He giveth wisdom unto the wise and knowledge to them that no understanding. He revealeth the deep and secret things. He knoweth what is in the darkness and the [00:02:02] light dwelleth with him. I thank thee and praise thee O thou God of my fathers who has given me wisdom and might and has made known unto me now what we desired of thee for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter. Therefore Daniel went in unto Ariok whom the king had ordained to the wise men of Babylon. He went and said thus unto him destroy not the wise men of Babylon bring me in before the king and I will show unto the king the interpretation. Now we move over to chapter 6. Again the background of the chapter is the hostility and intrigue of those who hated Daniel because of his prominence in the kingdom and they very slyly and in a very cunning way [00:03:03] sought this opportunity to bring Daniel into disfavor with Darius the king. We begin reading at verse 4. Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom but they could find none occasion or fault for as much as he was faithful neither was there any error or fault found in him. Then said these men we shall not find any occasion against this Daniel except we find it against him concerning the law of his God. Then they take steps and make an arrangement with the king for a certain law to be passed that no one should ask any request except to the king. Now when Daniel knew this, verse 10 it says, now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed he went into his house and his windows being open and his chamber toward [00:04:07] Jerusalem he kneeled upon his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God as he did aforetime. Then these men assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God. Praying in the midst of great danger because doing this he knew that he was liable to be cast in amongst the lions. Now we turn to chapter 9. This is a fairly long portion that

we want to read but it's very important that we should read it. Chapter 9 and verse 1. It's been suggested that Daniel might be 90 years of age when he prays this prayer. So we're listening to the prayer of an old man of God. Daniel chapter 9 and verse 1. In the first year of Darius the son [00:05:06] of Ahasuerus of the seed of the Medes which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans in the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years but off the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the prophet that he would accomplish 70 years in the desolations of Jerusalem. I set my face unto the Lord God to seek my prayer and supplications with fasting and sackcloth and ashes and I prayed unto the Lord my God and made my confession and said O Lord the great and dreadful God keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him and to them that keep his commandments we have sinned and have committed iniquity and have done wickedly and have rebelled even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments neither have we hearkened unto thy [00:06:07] servants the prophets which speak in thy name to our kings our princes and our fathers and to all the people of the land O Lord righteousness belongeth unto thee but unto us confusion of faces as at this day to the men of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and unto all Israel that are near and that are far off through all the countries whether thou has driven them because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee O Lord to us belongeth confusion of face to our kings to our princes and to our fathers because we have sinned against thee to the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses though we have rebelled against him neither have we obeyed [00:07:01] the voice of the Lord our God to walk in his laws which he set before us by his servants the prophets all Israel have transgressed thy law even by departing that they might not obey thy voice therefore the curse is poured upon us and the oath that is written in the law of Moses the servant of God because we have sinned against him and he hath confirmed his words which he spake against us and against our judges that judged us by bringing upon us a great evil but under the whole heaven hath not been done as had been done upon Jerusalem as it is written in the law of Moses all this evil has come upon us yet made we not our prayer before the Lord our God that we might turn from our iniquities and understand thy truth therefore hath the Lord watched upon the evil and brought it upon us for the Lord our God is righteous in all his works which he doeth [00:08:06] for we obeyed not his voice and now O Lord our God that has brought thy people forth out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand and has gotten the renown as at this day we have sinned we have done wickedly O Lord according to all thy righteousness I beseech thee let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem thy holy mountain because for our sins and for the iniquities of our fathers Jerusalem and thy people are become a reproach to all that are about us now therefore O our God hear the prayer of thy servant and his supplications and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate for the Lord's sake O my God incline thine ear and hear open thine eyes and behold our desolations and the city which is [00:09:09] called by thy name for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses but for thy great mercies O Lord hear O Lord forgive O Lord hearken and do defer not for thine own sake O my God for thy city and thy people are called by thy name and while I was speaking and praying and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God for the holy mountain of my God yea while as I was speaking in prayer even the man Gabriel whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning being caused to fly swiftly touch me about the time of the evening oblation and he informed me and talked with me [00:10:02] and said O Daniel I have now come forth to give thee skill and understanding at the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth and I am come to show thee for thou art greatly beloved therefore understand the matter and consider the vision my if we could pray like that that's some prayer the heart of that man was in his prayer and he's not praying about himself he's praying about the things that are dear to the heart of God what a prayer what confession willing to take the low place himself my sin and the sin of my people we'll come to that later it's comparatively easy to pray in conditions where things are congenial everything's all right

things are [00:11:02] going along normal isn't much danger things perhaps quite prosperous and perhaps not the same urgency for prayer on the other hand maybe when things are really difficult in our lives that we are pushed onto our knees to take account of God in his greatness and goodness I feel is a tremendous appeal as we read the book of Daniel and see this man of prayer this man of God this upright man this good man and his prayers and how he besought God and how God answered him in a signal fashion this was a prayer a specific prayer in chapter 2 as we said at the outset it was a tremendous endeavor on the part of Nebuchadnezzar to ask those wise men to reveal to him something that really they were unable to do it really revealed the emptiness of the Gentile professions [00:12:07] of knowledge and wisdom and skill and understanding and he made this tremendous request of them that they should tell him his dream and give to him the interpretation of it they were utterly unable to do it they tried to play for time they tried to modify the king's request but to no avail and so the threat went out if you don't tell me my dream and if you don't give me the interpretation you'll all lose your lives no exception well this was a dilemma and then Daniel heard about it knew that he was in danger and his companions were in danger and so he went to them and he said brethren we'll need to pray it was as simple as that that there was fellowship in prayer that great as the danger was Daniel knew that there was a place to which he could turn to find strength resource and [00:13:08] wisdom I believe that if Daniel and his companions hadn't been faithful in the first chapter you would never have heard Daniel and his and his praying friends in the second chapter their basis their field their faithfulness rather laid the basis of their prayer life and their success as we go through these six chapters in the book of Daniel faithfulness and small things led to success in greater things and so it is in all our lives let's take care of the small things and don't think they're too small we must be faithful in small things if we are going to have any power with God in greater things so Daniel and his companions they got together with a specific request that God would make known to them the dream and the interpretation of it and God [00:14:07] answered their request now I want to present this to ourselves today in the Christian era the Christian dispensation how does it affect us first of all fellowship in prayer a tremendous thing you remember in Matthew chapter 18 the Lord said if two of you agree in any matter it shall be granted you for where two or three are gathered together in my name there am I in the midst of them now that's a divine promise I believe uniquely this was fulfilled in the early days of the church where without any ulterior motive with clear vision as to the mind of the Lord the disciples [00:15:01] besought the Lord in prayer and their prayers were answered united prayer on their part we say well why aren't our prayers answered today we pray for much in the prayer meeting we cry to the Lord again and again for blessing in the gospel for power in the ministry for enlargement in our assemblies for greater knowledge of the truth greater affection towards the Lord we pray for many many things and the prayer answers are meager well there's nothing wrong with God we can start with that very very definitely that's a firm basis to rest upon that God is the same today as he was in the days of Daniel it may be that we have to look into our hearts and see if there are things there that need to be removed just as Daniel and his companions were faithful in those small things connection with food they were faithful in that God blessed them and because they were faithful [00:16:04] their prayers had power with God we mustn't forget what James said the prayer of a righteous man availeth much no dear friends I honestly believe as far as I'm concerned that's one of the reasons for failure in prayer life in my life you all can answer for yourselves but it's beyond doubt that the Lord has made a promise that he will fulfill that if we are gathered together in his name and we are agreed on specific matters he'll answer those requests well that's a promise that we can take hold of I suppose we all could refer to times in our companies when specific requests were made and those requests were answered there was an urgency about the prayers a reality about the prayers there were no frills or platitudes there was no embellishment of the prayers they [00:17:01] came out from the heart in simple terms straight to the point and God heard those prayers and answered them so it was when Peter was put in prison it says unceasing prayer

was made on his behalf by the assembly I am perfectly sure those who prayed in that prayer meeting in John Mark's mother's house they didn't indulge in long prayers and going all round about and upside down and in and out they were straight to the point Lord Peter is in prison we need Peter's help he's a gifted man Lord we need Peter released I'm sure their prayers were straight to the point simple prayers honest prayers prayers with no ulterior motive whatsoever and God answered the prayers and sad to say they had the faith to accept it when the visible visible evidence was before their eyes Peter [00:18:06] was standing outside nevertheless God answered their prayers wonderful thing when prayer is made in this way you remember in connection I think we mentioned this before in Acts chapter 4 when those who were in prison were released they went to their own company and they cried aloud to the Creator God and they cried specifically for boldness to continue the testimony in the city of Jerusalem in the place where Christ was crucified they desired help to continue this testimony and immediately says God gave them this boldness and they continued in the testimony short prayer they all prayed it short prayer to the point specific prayers and God heard them and blessed them we read in the book of Ezra how Ezra gathered all the company together and they [00:19:06] fasted together and he says that we might beseech the Lord for us all for a right way a plea a prayer for guidance a specific prayer for guidance and he says we were entreated of God he heard their prayers and he blessed them and he gave them guidance I remember when we were in Australia and this was without exception at the prayer meetings there would be about 10 minutes after the time for prayer started after the first hymn was given out there would be about 10 minutes employed in various people saying pray for so-and-so pray for this pray for the next thing and before ever the prayer meeting began about half a dozen or a dozen requests were specifically laid before the brethren to pray about now that seems to me dear brethren an excellent thing [00:20:06] would it be an exaggeration to say that sometimes we come together at a prayer meeting and you would scarcely think there was anything that required prayer seems to be such hesitation in taking part in the prayer meeting and then very vague general requests oh how much we need specific requests conditions that we know about that require prayer and you say well I don't know very many special requests well that would indicate that you don't know very much about your local situation the condition of your brothers and sisters in health and in spiritual standing it's an indication that you don't ever read the publications that circulate amongst us North Kasai News for instance with dozens of requests for prayer circulars that make requests for prayer all kinds of specific requests that come before the brethren [00:21:06] and sometimes you would think there's nothing to pray about isn't it sad and we wonder why we're not enlarged wonder why we're not growing wonder why there's not sufficient spiritual growth individually and collectively when the very place where we should be on our knees before God crying to him about specific matters and there's very very little done in this realm now I believe with all my heart that a prayer list would be an excellent thing in any prayer meeting with brothers who know matters that require prayer I see no difficulty at all in that prayer list being read out to the brethren and then the brethren pray about these specific things that are brought before them I don't think that we come together in a miraculous way [00:22:04] and then God suddenly reveals to us that there's something to pray about God wants us to be interested he wants us to be exercised wants us to know about the things that require prayer and pray about them not only individually but in our prayer meetings there can be no question at all that Daniel and his companions they prayed specifically this was a matter of the greatest urgency we read in North Kasai of enemies against the truth who want to gain control of our mission stations how many of us have prayed about that it's in the circular there's in the North Kasai news and this is a dangerous situation for our mission and these enemies are trying their utmost to gain control they've done so in Lusambo they could well do again and so our prayers will greatly help our brothers and sisters who are striving in the Lord's name [00:23:03] in that part of the world in Colombia the Roman Catholic authorities are doing their utmost to stifle the the message of the gospel in that area well our prayers will help the

Lord's servants to stand firm and there are many many other things that are crying out for prayer many projects such as this built on prayer built on vision and oh what blessing we have had in it but it requires prayer for its furtherance its maintenance that it might still be a place where blessing is secured and the Lord's honor and glory maintained and so dear brethren I believe this matter of specific prayer is one that is crying out to be attended to in our meetings and so if we went back from this place with that alone in our minds then these meetings will be well worthwhile I saw in America a prayer list arranged by a brother Eugene Vedder jr. tremendous prayer list it's [00:24:10] printed there's a prayer for every day of the year and that prayer list covers the whole world he searched out matters amongst us that require prayer and there they are I've tried to obtain a copy but I haven't won yet but I hope to get one and I think it's a tremendous guide in this matter of prayer not vain repetition urgent prayers to God in relation to his interests and if we don't know it's to our shame there are plenty of sources of information that we can apply ourselves to to get those prayer requests into our own hearts into our own lips that we might cry aloud to God well then James says if any man lack wisdom let him ask of God [00:25:06] what a wonderful thing that is to ask wisdom from God that's what Daniel did Daniel and his companions they asked for wisdom there's a simple prayer that I pray often when I lift my Bible I know that I'm unable to understand the Bible with my human mind I need God's wisdom so if I lift my Bible to read it I just make a simple prayer Lord help me to understand that doesn't take long but it's an expression of dependence which helps I believe the Lord answers those simple prayers when we go along to what sometimes called the business meeting I don't like that name but a meeting where the Lord's interests are cared for oh how we need to pray for wisdom that we might attend to the Lord's business in an upright just and honorable way that the spirit of the flesh the endeavors of the flesh [00:26:06] might be kept at bay and what is pleasing to God come into manifestation when we go to a Bible reading good thing to pray for the spirit of wisdom and revelation that we might understand the things that we are reading and make progress in our souls these are prayers prayers for wisdom this was an urgent matter again we see this a specific matter and God answered it an answer prayer praise God leads to praise my what a note of praise that was on the part of Daniel what a tremendous praise it was oh how his heart went out to God in praise and worship I think that that praise indicates the great supremacy of God you'll notice it begins with blessed be the name of God forever and ever why that dream that vision that Daniel got [00:27:06] I believe that he also got a vision of that great image and got the interpretation of it and Daniel saw in that the end of Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom blessed be the name of God forever and ever Nebuchadnezzar departs God's name goes on and on and on no stopping the interest and power of God Nebuchadnezzar couldn't remember his dream his wise men couldn't remember the dream neither give the interpretation of it but wisdom and might belong to God he is the one who reveals things again the supremacy of God Daniel could see the times of the Gentiles coming to their end but he prays to God and praises God the times and seasons belong to him he puts down and he lifts up in the ways of God [00:28:03] was necessary in the purpose of God everything was secure and his will would be established the servants of Nebuchadnezzar are useless the servants of God they are revealed that the dream is revealed to them and its interpretation the whole tenor of this note of praise is to establish or rather should I say to voice the supremacy of God and the ineffectual power of Nebuchadnezzar and his servants let me say in passing that when the Jew is faithful to his God he's infinitely greater than the greatest of the Gentiles the first six chapters of the book of Daniel demonstrate this in a very powerful way that the faithful Jew is always superior to the best of the Gentiles [00:29:19] you read it through for yourself and you'll see that what I'm saying is true and so Daniel he praises God he receives an answer to his prayer and the prayer of his companions and he praises God it would be a strange thing indeed if our prayers answered and we do not return worship and praise to the God who gives answers to our prayers it would be indeed a strange thing but I believe the pattern there is one that we can happily follow now we come to chapter six [00:30:17] we've

considered the cruelty of this great monarch and his desire to deal with his own servants and also with Daniel and his companions a picture we believe of the cruelty of the man of sin the end the beast the first beast of revelation 13 marked by utmost cruelty and violence and Nebuchadnezzar is a figure of this kind of thing when we come to chapter six it's the cunning intrigue perhaps set forth in the false prophet the second beast of revelation 13 but we're not particularly engaged with that at the moment we're concerned about how this man of God triumphed over that [00:31:04] opposition against him first of all there was no question at all that Daniel was an upright man a very upright man indeed they knew perfectly well that there was no possibility of finding any fraud in him any embezzlement any falling behind in his responsibilities towards the king if any fault could be found it would be found in connection with his faith that's a very good thing I remember when Gerald Ford was vice president and you remember he had to take over when President Nixon had to resign and I understand that they went through his life very carefully to see if there was anything in him that would prohibit him from being the president and it's to his credit that they could not find anything politically or criminally against him [00:32:07] very unusual thing in American politics or for that matter in any glance politics he must have been a very upright man indeed and this is the kind of thing they tried to do with Daniel see if he's done anything wrong against his master any fraud any deceit any stealing anything of that kind no nothing could be found against him he was an upright man I wonder can that be said of us in our dealings and business in our responsibilities are we upright are we honest well that's a very trying thing we live in days when that kind of thing is accepted practice as long as you get away with it it's all right that's of no use whatsoever in the Christian testimony and God answers prayers that are upright and true backed up by honest [00:33:03] lives let us quote again what James says the prayer of a righteous man availeth much righteous before men righteous before God that's the kind of prayer that God answers and we might say well why why have we declined why we look into our own hearts first I'm prepared to take my place like Daniel and say I'll confess my sin I may have gone to the meetings may even been active in Christian service but there may have been things in my life that not pleasing to God that adversely affects the testimony it affects to our power and prayer not with Daniel he was an upright man a good man and so when he heard that this edict had been signed that if any man asked any God or any personal request apart from the king that person was to be cast amongst the lions and when Daniel knew that it was signed notice that dear brethren he wasn't ignorant of what was going on [00:34:05] he knew perfectly well the attack against him and when he knew it it wasn't something he did in a hurry or in urgency it was something that fell into the scope of his custom unhurriedly according to his usual life went into his home closed his door opened his window looked towards Jerusalem and prayed the prayer of Solomon when you go home when you find time read the prayer of Solomon first kings chapter eight there's another version of it in chronicles second chronicles and Solomon says to God if there should be a situation arising when thy people are taken captive and they're in captivity and they look towards this house and they call upon thee in repentance hear their prayer and maintain their right that's the kind of prayer that Daniel prayed [00:35:04] he prayed Solomon's prayer he took account intelligently of what God had provided and he prayed accordingly and God maintained his right I like to see this man in his unhurried way three times a day he prayed day after day week after week month after month perhaps this was the reason for his stability this was the reason that he was an upright servant for his master this was the source of his power three times a day he prayed I remember rightly in Psalm 55 the psalmist says evening and morning and at noon will I call unto thee there was another man who prayed three times a day Daniel prayed three times a day it was his custom he kneeled and he gave thanks while he made his supplications it's not a very nice thing to think that there [00:36:04] are people who are thirsting for your blood and by kneeling down you're disobeying the edict of the king and that edict means your death well that didn't disturb Daniel why I believe that he was like Peter you remember Peter in prison why the Lord had told him Peter you won't die until you're old that's what the Lord told him at the end of

the gospel by John and there was Peter in prison lying sleeping and yet he was to be killed in the morning why was he sleeping restful in the promise of God he wasn't yet an old man that is still to come and so my time hasn't arrived yet he said when he wrote his letter many many years afterwards he said the time of my departure has come the Lord had shown him it was his time to go but Daniel he knew that Solomon's prayer would be answered maintain the right when they cry aloud unto thee to this house Daniel knew full [00:37:04] well that his God was able to help him and you know the story we don't need to repeat it you know how eventually he was cast into the den where the lions were and he spent a more comfortable night than the king did by faith stopped the mouth of lions it tells us in Hebrews 11 Daniel's faith in his God God who was able to deliver him God who was able to sustain him in the most awful surroundings that God delivered him God maintained his right upright before his king upright before his God this man's prayers had power of ours George Muller was a man of prayer I believe a morally upright man a spiritually upright man someone said Muller you must have a special kind of faith no he says I just make mine work he had faith in God that was the source of his power [00:38:08] and I believe dear brethren that if our moral condition was right before God and before men he would hear and answer our prayers especially those prayers in relation to his own interests now lastly we come to chapter six chapter nine this prayer of Daniel's has to be read in connection with the book of Jeremiah chapter 29 and God sent word to the captives in Babylon now marry make sure your sons and daughter marry build houses plant gardens he says you're going to be here for 70 years [00:39:06] now don't listen to those people who say oh God will deliver you he says I have no intention of delivering you you'll be here for 70 years and also he said when the time is drawing near cry unto me in repentance and confession of sin and he says I will answer you and I will deliver you and I will bring you back to your land and bless you there isn't the slightest evidence that anyone else except Daniel was concerned about that about that nowhere else in the bible do we find anyone who was concerned about the fulfillment of God's promise so Daniel is really taking upon himself what should have been the remnant's prayer those in Babylon they should have been exercised about this they should have been crying aloud to [00:40:02] God they should have been repenting about their sins and their failure and as far as we know not one did it's also been suggested that this was about the time when Daniel was cast amongst the lions by king Darius an old man pitiless man the monarch because he was bound up with the laws that he had passed but Daniel's God delivered him as we have already said but what a prayer I'm sure you would notice as we were reading together how Daniel cried aloud oh God it wasn't a casual prayer it wasn't a well-thought-out prayer with platitudes and nice smooth sayings it was a prayer of humiliation a prayer of repentance a prayer of confession but it also took account of the promise of God it took account of the God of his fathers that is the God of the covenant the God who has a purpose in relation to his people [00:41:08] as far as we know this is the only prayer that we find in the Bible that was interrupted from heaven when Daniel was speaking the angel Gabriel was sent to him while he was still speaking and told him his prayer was heard man greatly beloved and then we find in the latter part of the chapter the tremendous vision 70 weeks vision and we haven't time to consider that but it's all one great triumph that God's people Israel will eventually succeed their sins will be put away they'll occupy the foremost place in the nation according to the purpose of God all that is secure and while there was a partial fulfillment in the return of the captives from Babylon the complete fulfillment waited until Christ dealt with it effectively [00:42:03] oh dear friends what we see here is a man with a breadth of vision with a depth of feeling with a great concern for what belonged to God personally Jerusalem broken down destroyed the walls flat the house in ruins oh the Jews yes privileged people was Daniel praying principally about them no not principally about them thy city thy sanctuary and then thy people that was the burden of his prayer God's interest first God's people next but the main thing is it's God's interests God's city what did God say about it you remember in psalm 132 here will I rest this is the place forever he said for I will rest this was the place that he selected for the building of [00:43:03] the

temple and for the approach to himself God never alters the gifts and calling of God are without dependence and so that Jerusalem its broken condition was still God's center God's city and in that city there was the sanctuary the holiest of all the place where the ark should have been the place where God would still meet with men and they with him God's holy sanctuary and God's people his chosen people his elect that people that was so near to him this was the burden of Daniel's prayer but what a tremendous acknowledgement of failure we haven't obeyed thy law we followed our own way we've sinned we've done wickedness and Daniel says I confessed my sin and the sin of my people Israel and you will notice he covers the whole scope of [00:44:03] the nation the prophets the priests the kings Judah all Israel no one is left out now that was Daniel's prayer in relation to the nation of Israel what about our prayers our prime responsibility is where we meet with other believers that's our prime responsibility that we pray for the prosperity spiritually and otherwise of those who are gathered to the Lord's name in whatever locality we are in that's our prime responsibility that we pray there and we work there for its success not for our blessing entirely but for the glory of God and of Christ but it doesn't stop there we think of the whole church of God and we should pray for its prosperity and we can pray for the decadence of the Christian testimony today in many parts of the world where once it flourished [00:45:07] there must be some reason why it has gone down and perhaps the reason is that Daniel places the reason not obeying the word of God sinning doing things that are wrong and so gradually the testimony declines and eventually disappears but the road for success is repentance that's what Daniel is that's how Daniel is acting here confessing repenting and crying upon God to hear now these are not strange words in our ears in connection with the Christian testimony when we come to the seven churches in chapters two and three of revelation this is exactly the word that continually comes before us repentance repent remember from whence thou has fallen again and again and again we find this word coming in in the Lord's addresses to the churches he in [00:46:04] his divine ability in his scrutinizing eye can put his finger right on the part that requires attention we cannot do that we haven't the wisdom that he has but we can pray that the Lord will give us wisdom and guidance and help to see what is necessary to adjust in our own lives individually and collectively that what belongs to the Lord might be maintained for his glory as I close it's very interesting to remember that two men who were greatly beloved were given an insight into the truth of God we find Daniel is given the 70 weeks vision and that vision means the complete restoration of Israel in the future and a place of glory kept for them maintained for them for God's glory primarily and also for their blessing and you remember it was the man [00:47:03] the disciple whom Jesus loved who got the vision that we find in the book of revelation succeeding visions visions of the decadence of the church and a little faithfulness in it it's eventually destruction the professing body that's nauseous to the Lord pictured in the great whore Babylon but also the triumph ah that's the great thing John looks on to the holy city the new Jerusalem he looks forward to the bride adorned for her husband and the man who was greatly beloved by the Lord was the man who received those visions perhaps if we were nearer to the Lord then visions would be given to us I don't mean actual visions I mean the wisdom the knowledge the understanding of what's necessary in our own lives and what is necessary in our collective testimony oh may it encourage us to more earnest specific prayer I don't think we could possibly [00:48:04] read Daniel 9 and not be affected by it to hear this man pouring out his heart in relation to the interests of God and to the interests of his nation Israel and he an old man there's no opting out of this because of years he is a man of great energy and prayer reaching the end of his life and heaven says he's a man greatly beloved what a thing to qualify for but you don't qualify it because of the excellency of your prayers in human expressions you qualify for it by faithfulness to the truth obedience to the truth as Daniel was taking the consequences they came because of his faithfulness and doing what is pleasing to the Lord may we all be encouraged for his namesake can we sing together 289 289 [00:49:01] be still my soul the Lord is on thy side bear patiently the cross of grief or pain leave to thy God to order and provide in every change he faithful

will remain to order and provide in every change he faithful will remain be still my soul thy best thy
heavenly friend through thorny ways leads to a joyful end 289