



International Bible Lesson
Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Prayer in the Heavenly Battleground

January 28, 2018

Daniel 10:10-19

“Then the angel continued, ‘Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them’” (Daniel 10:12).

When the angel, probably Gabriel, appeared to Daniel, he explained why it had taken so long for Daniel to receive an answer to his prayers. The problem was not Daniel’s lack of faith or commitment to obeying God, because the angel told Daniel that he was “highly esteemed” (NIV) or “greatly beloved” (KJV). While serving as a counselor to the king of Persia, Daniel had refused to seek the esteem or the love of the world, no wonder God esteemed his way of life. While remaining humble before his God, Daniel had persisted in prayer for twenty-one days, no wonder God loved and respected Daniel. Daniel was not at fault. Having set his mind to gain understanding from God, Daniel had prayed rightly; therefore, from the first day that he had begun to pray God had heard his prayers. From Daniel’s meeting with the angel, we discover why answers to some of our prayers take so long to learn. Gabriel explained that while he was on his way to give God’s message to Daniel a demon had resisted him. Only after God sent the archangel Michael to help him was Gabriel able to come to Daniel. The Book of Daniel gives us a glimpse into the spiritual battles all believers face. Like Daniel, we can take our place in the battle when for good reasons we set our hearts and minds to pray to God, and then persist in prayer no matter how long it takes to receive our answer.

Thinking Further

1. What did Gabriel say about Daniel’s character before God?

2. During his visitation, what did Gabriel do to help Daniel?

3. When did God hear and answer Daniel's prayer?

4. From Daniel's example, what can we learn about prayer and Bible study?

5. Give one reason you may not receive an answer to prayer when you expect?

Begin or close your class by reading the short weekly *International Bible Lesson*.

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