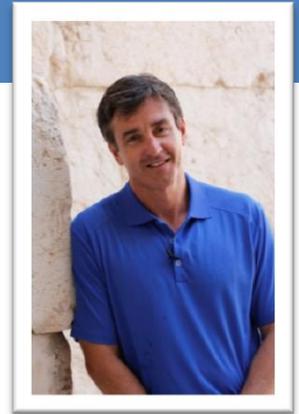


Pastor Allen Jackson



I. Into the Arena

Ephesians 6:18 (NIV[®])

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

a listening prayer —

- 1) we listen to someone else
- 2) respond with a sentence prayer
- 3) do not wait for affirmation/encouragement/answer
- 4) lowest stress to recipient
- 5) opens door to consider God
- 6) reveals your confidence in God

for example . . .

- ❖ Heavenly Father, we need your mercy. Amen.
- ❖ Heavenly Father, give us your wisdom. Amen.
- ❖ Almighty God, thank you for your great kindness to us, in Jesus' name, amen.

II. Prayers that Make a Difference

A. People who believe in God (small group impact)

Daniel 1:8-17 (NIV[®])

⁸ But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. . . .¹⁰ but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you."¹¹ Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah,¹² "Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink.¹³ Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see."¹⁴ So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.¹⁵ At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food.¹⁶ So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.¹⁷ **To these four young men God gave knowledge and**

understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

- ❖ Stood against idolatry, delivered from furnace
- ❖ Provide leadership for multiple kings, empires
- ❖ Devotion invoked jealousy, delivered from lion's den
- ❖ God honored throughout empire

B. Trustworthy & Devout (personal)

Daniel 6:4-5, 10 (NIV[®])

They could find no corruption in him (Daniel), because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.

⁵ Finally these men said, "We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God."

¹⁰ Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, **giving thanks to his God**, just as he had done before.

C. God Honored

Daniel 6:26-28 (NIV[®])

²⁶ "I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must **fear and reverence the God of Daniel**. "For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end.

²⁷ He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions." ²⁸ So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

- ❖ God honored through Daniel's faithfulness

III. Expanding Prayer Portfolio

A. Prayer, Discernment & Judgment

Acts 13:6-12 (NIV[®])

⁶ They traveled through the whole island until they came to Paphos. There they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus, ⁷ who was an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God. ⁸ But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith. ⁹ Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, ¹⁰ "You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord?" ¹¹ Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind, and for a time you will be unable to see the light of the sun." Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand. ¹² When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord.

B. Prayers in midst of judgment

Prayer

Heavenly Father, give us a boldness for You, the courage to choose the truth in all our ways. Holy Spirit direct our steps, orchestrate our days for the purposes of God's Kingdom. Give us the discernment to recognize Your leading. Grant us the strength and courage to stand and not grow weary. May our lives result in the exaltation of Almighty God and His son Jesus, amen.

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