

# The Shameless Audacity of Prayer

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*Luke 11:1-13*

- I. **Part of learning to pray is learning to be shamelessly audacious (bold) with our prayers and spiritual life (Luke 11:8). The Greek word for audacity, “*anaideia*,” literally means “no shame, or without shame, shamelessness, audacity, unabashedness.” The word describes brazen persistence in the pursuit of something. (New Testament Lexicon, NIV Word Study Bible).**
  - A. This boldness comes from Jesus’ love and sacrifice for us, giving us unique experience and standing with God (Hebrews 4:14-16).
  - B. Jesus continually invited his disciples to walk in a bold place, praying for the love, mercy, and power of God (Matthew 10:1, 7, 8; 17:14-20; 18:18-20; 20:29-34; 21:18-22; Luke 18:1-8; James 5:16-18).
  
- II. **The prophet, Daniel, literally shaped Israel’s destiny while in exile with his persistent, shameless, audacious prayer for the return of Israel to their homeland every day for 70 years. God answered his prayers for his survival and the survival of his friends over the same period of time.**
  - A. King Nebuchadnezzar wanted to know the interpretation of a dream he had and threatened to kill all the wisemen of the kingdom unless they revealed the dream and its meaning. God revealed the dream to Daniel after he prayed for mercy with his friends. (Daniel 2:17-28)
  - B. Daniel also interpreted another dream for Nebuchadnezzar, prophesying of his impending insanity that was to last for seven years (Daniel 4).
  - C. Daniel even became a key leader in the next empire (Medo-Persian Empire of King Cyrus).
    1. Prayer was so central to Daniel’s life that he would not give it up even at the risk of his own life (Daniel 6:1-16).
    2. Instead of being destroyed himself, Daniel’s enemies were destroyed; and the king changed his heart toward God (Daniel 6:24-28).
  - D. Later Daniel discerned that Jeremiah’s prophecy of the exile of Israel for 70 years had come to an end. He had shamelessly and audaciously prayed for the return of Israel to their homeland every day for 70 years. At the end of 70 years, he turned to the Lord with prayer and fasting (Daniel 9:1-3, 17-23). Notice verse 23: “As soon as you began to pray...”
  - E. In response to Daniel’s prayer, the Lord moved on the heart of Cyrus, the Persian, to let Israel go home (II Chronicles 36:22-23). Through repentance and prayer we lay hold of God’s mercy. God may remove a bad ruler, or he may change their hearts, making them instruments of mercy. King David described the power of a godly ruler who rules in the fear of God (II Samuel 23:1-4). This is what we should be crying out to God for in these last days.

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February 13, 2022*

