

November 20, 2020

Daniel 10:12; Isaiah 49:15b, 16a

“Then he 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 had been given a vision which he did not understand so he fasted and prayed before God for three weeks. Then a messenger of the LORD appeared to him. The men with Daniel did not see the messenger, but they were suddenly so overcome with fear that they fled. Daniel described it as “I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless. Then I heard him speaking and I listened....”

Wouldn't it be great if God answered our prayers as obviously as that? I mean, wouldn't we all listen to God if He sent an angel in all his majesty to tell us what we should do? Wouldn't it be great if God answered our prayers as quickly as three weeks? What is great is that God does answer our prayers even if it is in His own way and His own time.

My mother was Catholic and my father was Lutheran. I was raised as a Catholic and attended 12 years of Catholic schooling. I remember my father helping me memorize my Catechism lessons. Other than that, we never discussed religion at home. Back then the Catholic church taught that it was the one true church. Reading the Bible was discouraged. When I asked one of my nuns why, the answer was that only priests, bishops and the pope could really understand it. Happily, those days are gone and the Catholic church is more ecumenical. (Catholics now read the Bible and it was a priest who gave me my first Bible.) Sometimes I would go into a church across from my high school and just enjoy the quiet and peace. “Out of the blue” one day, I told the LORD that I was pretty sure that the Catholic church was the one true church, BUT if it wasn't, please let me know. Thankfully, my God took me at my word. I wanted to know the truth about my faith. (I already thought I did.) Several years later a friend of mine was doubting her Catholic faith. I took her to my church where my favorite priest was teaching a course about our faith. He said that if any non-Catholics doubted their faith, they were obligated by God to seek the truth. I asked him if that was the same for Catholics who doubted their faith. He thought a minute and said, “Yes”. That was pretty brave of him at that time. Oddly enough, my friend is still Catholic and I am not. The LORD used a Catholic nun 10 years later to show me the truth about my faith. It needed to be based only on a relationship with Jesus. God was very kind. To keep me from looking down on the Catholic faith, He used priests and several nuns and friends to bring me farther along on my faith walk. He has also used Baptists, Lutherans, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Methodists, and Disciples of Christ (many of you). This faith walk has been exciting and lifelong. I wonder who God will send next .

It took God 15 years to answer my first prayer to Him about my faith. I had been a die-hard Catholic. God had to prepare the way for me. He had to prepare me to be able to receive and to believe the truth. We have a very faithful, loving God who has a good memory and who promised: “I will never forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of My hands.”

Prayer: Dear Abba Father, precious Jesus, Sweet Holy Spirit, please give us the patience to wait for You. Help us to remember that You hear us and You will answer our prayers. Please help us to be willing to accept Your answer and Your timing. Help us to remember that You desire the best for our welfare. Thank You for being our faithful, loving God Almighty, Redeemer and Lover of our souls. Amen.

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