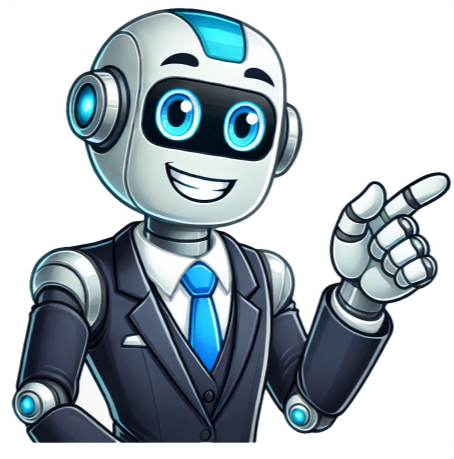


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prayer. Another person in the Bible who was known for his powerful prayers was the prophet Daniel. He got in trouble with the authorities in Babylon because of his prayer. During the chapters of prophecy, written in the first person by Daniel, he records a prayer asking for forgiveness for the sins of the people. The Bible records the prayer, given here in part: And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by 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 servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land: O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee (Daniel 9:3-6, 8, KJV). Daniels prayers helped protect him in the lions den, where God shut the mouth of the large cats to preserve the life of his faithful servant. This prayer reflects the anguish of someone sincerely reflecting on their own wickedness, and of the people they represent, and coming humbly before God for forgiveness, which He granted. Eventually, the exile to Babylon was ended. How Can We Pray Fervently for Each Other? Part of the Christian life is praying for brothers and sisters in Christ. The Apostle Paul encouraged believers, Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; ... Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep (Romans 12:10, 12, 15). Taking this to heart, Christians should be as passionate about the blessings, trials, and temptations of their brothers and sisters as they are for their own. Fervent prayer is not just praying loudly or with great emotion, though that can be a part of it. It is a prayer that is sincere, striving to be conformed to the will of God, and that glorifies Him. Reaching out to the Lord, fueled by the Spirit of God, is a cornerstone of a strong walk that can help a Christian finish the race well. It can also be a part of Gods plan for action, and lead to an answer to that prayer. Sources: Johnson, Owen. The Passioante Praying of the Effectual Fervent Prayer. Xulon Press, 2012. Oxenden, Ashton. Fervent Prayer. London: Hatchard & Co., 1861. Saylor, Mary Harwell. The Book of Bible Prayers. Amazon Digital Services, 2019. Photo credit: Unsplash/Luis Alberto Sanchez Terrones Bethany Verrett is a freelance writer who uses her passion for God, reading, and writing to glorify God. She and her husband have lived all over the country serving their Lord and Savior in ministry. She has a blog on graceandgrowing.com.

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