

THRONE WARS: WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE?
KINGDOM CRY: SERIOUS FAITH

Daniel 9.1-23

8.4.24

Serious faith takes God seriously

Serious faith takes God seriously by seeking God through:

#1 **SCRIPTURE**: GET CLEAR ON GOD'S STORY – TRUST THE SURE *PLAN* GOD HAS (1-2)

Serious faith takes to God's word

Two realities to clarify as you dig into Scripture:

#1 Get clear on your actual place in God's plan: Your story is a part of God's story (1)

#2 Get clear on the actual promises of God's plan: God's story is not random (2)

#2 **PRAYER**: CRY OUT FOR GOD'S MERCY – MAKE THE HUMBLE *APPEALS* THAT GOD HEARS (3-19)

Serious faith takes the word to God

Seven qualities that mark effective prayers:

#1 Pray vertically: Effective prayer involves genuinely seeking relationship with God (3a)

#2 Pray humbly: Effective prayer involves genuine whole-life humility (3b)

#3 Pray worshipfully: Effective prayer starts with genuine acknowledgement of who God is (4)

#4 Pray truthfully: Effective prayer is genuinely honest about sin (5-11s)

#5 Pray biblically: Effective prayer is saturated with a genuine understanding of Scripture (11b-14)

#6 Pray boldly: Effective prayer makes bold specific asks that genuinely bank on his grace (15-16)

#7 Pray doxologically: Effective prayer genuinely appeals to God's glory as its' highest aim (17-19)

#3 ANSWERS: KEEP WATCH FOR GOD'S ACTIVITY: WATCH THE AWESOME RESPONSES GOD PROVIDES (20-23)

Serious faith takes God at His word

Five trademarks of God's handiwork to watch for:

#1 Don't miss the regard God shows: God loves to answer people who are humbly seeking him (20)

#2 Don't miss the resources God uses: God has agents and means of answering that we can't account for (21a)

#3 Don't miss the recognition God keeps: God connects meaningful moments in mysterious ways (21b)

#4 Don't miss the responsiveness God maintains: Nothing slows God down from answering when he wants to (22-23a)

#5 Don't miss the tenderness God has: God's people confessing their sin doesn't stop God from loving them deeply (23b)