

THE CIRCLE MAKER

By Mark Batterson

Lesson 6: Chapters 14-15

Rate of Return on Prayer – *Daniel 1*

- Daring to go against what's **popular** might cost you but cannot compare to the **spiritual** benefits.
- Caring about what **God** thinks is always most important.
- The **danger** in praying is that we stop after God **answers**. Stay prayerful, **humble**, and **hungry** for what God has next.

Decide to Pray Through

- Anything worth **thinking** about is worth **praying** about.
- Decide to stand firm on your **convictions** even in the little things. Pray and wait for God to **unravel** His blessings. (*Daniel's ten day fast led to a life time of God both challenging and promoting him*)
- Making good **decisions** daily has a cumulative effect that pays dividends the rest of your life.
- We only make a few **defining** decisions in life, and then we spend the rest of lives **managing** them. (*Maybe you've made some bad decisions that have gotten you where you don't want to be. The good news is that you're only one defining decision away from a totally different life.*)

Spirit Versus The Flesh *Matthew 26*

- Jesus was always coming **through** for His disciples and always comes through for us. The least we can do is stay **woke** and PRAY.
- When we sleep on prayer it hurts the heart of Jesus and hurts us even more.
- Great returns are **actualized** because of both small and great **sacrifices**.
- Prayer provides power to our sin-filled flesh to do His Will.

Key Thought: “Prayer connects us to His Will.”

Discussion Questions

1. **Read Daniel 1:8.** Daniel made a stance to align his actions with his convictions. Given our focus has been on prayer what actions have you decided to align with your convictions.
2. What are you currently praying through and what road blocks have you run up against? What victories big or small have you realized because of your commitment to prayer?
3. In your decision-making process whether it be big or small, what steps do you take before landing in a place resolve or making your decision final? What will you do different considering what you've learned?