

READ



Daniel 9:3-4 "Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. And I prayed to the Lord my God, and made confession, and said, "O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments." (NKJV)

REFLECT

Over the last year we've used the term "first responder" in reference to the medical professionals, healthcare workers, law enforcement and firemen/women, pastors and educators and a few others who all are designated and trained to respond to an emergency. We laud and applaud their efforts because of the self-sacrificing nature of their respective vocation/calling. Well, as children of God, we have the benefit of prayer and fasting to connect with the ultimate self-sacrificing first responder, who is Jesus the Christ. Daniel understood the importance of turning to God for prophetic direction through prayer, fasting and confession. Through these acts of spiritual discipline and devotion, Daniel set apart time intentionally to humbly commune with God and be in His presence. Notice that he prayed (communication), fasted (denial) and confessed (acknowledgment). Most of us are accustomed to praying – even fasting occasionally, yet how often is confession included? Daniel confessed the great and awesomeness of God and His promises. Just a few verses later, Daniel also acknowledges the sin and rebellion committed against God. Daniel's prayer teaches us a lot about prayer—we also witness God's answers to his prayers. Jesus is our "first responder." He may not come when we want Him, but He's always right on time.

RESPOND

What stands out to you about Daniel's prayer? Why?