

## “Greeting Team”

### For Sunday, December 10th

Remember: Meet in the coat room @ **10:30 am** for brief prayer & then go “welcome” people! NOTE: Keep an eye on the auditorium for those who slipped past!

### Greeters this week:

#### Justin Taylor Sunday Night

- 1st— Odin Dart Thursday Night; Ladies Group Thursday Night
- 2nd— Justin Taylor Sunday Night;
- 3rd— Randy Ehlers Monday Night;
- 4th— Curt Mastbergen Sunday Noon; Tackett Sunday Night

### Small Groups @ MBC

*Are The Primary Means  
For Carrying Out  
“Pastoral Care”  
In The Body*

## Announcements

1. On The Church Calendar:  
Our Annual  
“Christmas Eve Service”  
December 24th 6-7:00 PM
2. Also On The Church Calendar: A new  
“Servant Equipped” class  
begins Wednesday, Jan 10th

## Daniel: Responding To Spiritual Warfare

(Note: This continues a series of posts on Daniel’s life) On rare occasions, God pulls back the curtain that divides the realm of the “seen” from the “unseen” realm! This post is about spiritual warfare; and, specifically how the prophet Daniel responded to it! If you’re unaware of how prayer works, you might become discouraged by the “turnaround time.” You might talk to God about something; and, because you don’t get an answer immediately, you might conclude that He’s not listening to you! That would be a mistake on your part! In the 10th chapter of Daniel’s book, in the Bible, we’re introduced to the concept that there are forces at work that we’re unable to see because they are “spiritual”! Here’s what the Apostle Paul wrote the Church of Ephesus about these “spiritual” forces: “*Our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world powers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens*” (Ephesians 6:12). There are spiritual forces of evil at work in the “heavens”; but, we can’t see them because they are spiritual, not flesh! So, if we’re aware that there is a battle going on behind that “curtain” that divides our world from the spiritual world, we’ll adjust our focus! Again, the Apostle Paul said, “*So we do not focus on what is seen; but, on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal*” (2 Cor. 4:18). So, a Biblical response to life’s struggles is to focus not on the seen; but, the unseen! Whatever life situation we may be enduring, it is temporary. In God’s Sovereignty and eternal wisdom, the circumstances of life may change in a moment; or they may drag on for a while. But God tells us to focus on the unseen rather than the seen; by faith to trust God’s work that we cannot see. By faith, to believe His ways of doing things in our life is higher and better than anything we could plan. That’s how Daniel responded! Our challenge is to let God’s Spirit pull back that curtain & give you a glimpse— through the Scriptures— into the reality of the spirit world! And, the reality that the spirit world impacts our world! That there is a spiritual warfare behind all of life’s struggles! And, Daniel shows us some things about this spirit world; and, how we ought to respond! Just pick up your Bible & read the 10th chapter of Daniel. Pay close attention to the words the angel speaks to Daniel in v.12. He tells him that God heard his prayers from the very beginning!



## Your Prayers Were Heard

“*Don’t be afraid, Daniel,*” he said to me, “*for from the first day that you purposed to understand and to humble yourself before your God, your prayers were heard. I have come because of your prayers.*” (v.12) Though time had passed— perhaps 3 full weeks (v.12)— God actually HEARD Daniel’s prayer from the FIRST DAY he had begun to pray! In v.11, the angel told Daniel, “*...I have been sent to you...*”; and, v.12 “*...I have come BECAUSE of YOUR PRAYERS...*” I hope that encourages you! It does me! It might seem as though your prayers are going unheard! That’s what the enemy wants you to believe! Don’t listen to his lies! God hears your prayers the moment they’re formed in your heart! But, as we’ll see, there are reasons the “answers” to your prayers may be delayed! And you don’t need to know why! That’s not how God grows your faith! He grows you spiritually as you submit to Him, even when you don’t know what He’s doing!