

Praying “to the Nines”

by Joline Stewart

“To the nines” is an idiom meaning “to perfection” or “to the highest degree” (*Wikipedia*).

There are three great examples of praying to the nines — Daniel chapter nine, Ezra chapter nine and Nehemiah chapter nine.

If we want to pray “to the nines,” there is no better way than to take a verse of Scripture, meditate on it as the very voice of God, and then respond to Him in prayer.

Daniel comes boldly before God’s throne, “Then I set my face toward the Lord God.” He also comes humbly, “to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.” The presence of God’s Spirit inspires awe and wonder so Daniel worships, “O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments.” Daniel confesses the sins of the people, “we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments.” Daniel sees clearly the great difference between man and God, “O Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but to us shame of face, as it is this day ... because of the unfaithfulness which they have committed against You.” Daniel is now ready to ask of God, and his first request is for mercy.

There is so much more to be learned about prayer from these three godly men. Take a giant leap forward in your prayer life this month as you practice praying “to the nines.”

How to Start a *Cords of Three* Prayer Ministry

Step 1 - Commit yourself to God as His servant to begin this new prayer ministry. Ask Him to help you identify one or two (max.) other believers and invite them to join you each week for a 10-15 minute phone prayer meeting. Don’t expect everyone to say “yes.”

Write the names below of those you are going to invite to join you.

Step 2 - Organize an initial phone meeting to decide on the logistics (day, time, who will initiate the call, etc.). Put it on your calendar and don’t let anything supplant it.

Step 3 - Resolve to begin on a specific date and to be committed to the Lord, to each other, and the weekly prayer meeting.

Step 4 - Deploy. Get started. It may seem a bit awkward at first, but your *Cords of Three* prayer ministry will quickly become a powerful spiritual influence in your life and the lives of those you meet with each week.



PRAYER JOURNAL

JULY 2026

