



# THE CROSS *and* CROWN

*"No Cross, No Crown"*

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*"Brothers and sisters, pray for us." 1 Thessalonians 5:25*

The prophet Daniel received a revelation from God, then prayed and mourned for three weeks before he received the interpretation. Throughout the time Daniel spent praying, a battle was taking place in spiritual realms, with God's envoy struggling against the prince of Persia. For anyone with a sporadic prayer life, it would have been difficult – impossible, perhaps – to persevere through a marathon of prayer with no response from God – but Daniel was not just anyone. This was the man who had disciplined himself to pray three times a day while living in a foreign land that was under the influence of foreign gods.



It's never easy to wait for God after we've presented our needs to him. Sometimes, we have to wait because our timeline doesn't match up to his (and how much better off we are when we wait until the proper time!). Sometimes, however, God makes us wait simply because he wants us to keep on praying. God knows that we need to build up our prayer muscles, because there will be times when we will have to pray not just to move the heart of God but also to move aside the walls of resistance erected by our adversary. Like Daniel, we will come up against situations where our prayers are resisted, and, like Daniel, we will need the spiritual fortitude to persevere.

Discipline like this isn't developed overnight. It is the product of the regular, sustained practice of prayer. However much we're currently praying, let us determine to pray more. If you're new to prayer, start by praying the Lord's Prayer and reading a Psalm of praise every day. Write out a prayer list, and make a daily appointment to pray through it. If you have a solid prayer life, challenge yourself to find an extra five minutes a day to pray: Pray while you're cooking or doing the dishes. Pray while you're waiting in line or stuck in traffic. Turn off the TV or social media for five minutes and pray. Call up a friend a pray together over the phone. Little advances add up very quickly! Stick with it, and you, too, can be a Daniel!

*Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. (Luke 18:1)*

# Brothers and Sisters, Pray for Us!

Thanks to our prayer partners, who pray for us in 20-minute blocks! Your investment is paying dividends! Please continue praying with us for:

- more of God's Spirit, likeness, mission and vision,
- our upcoming summer ministry opportunities (and the challenges they bring),
- God's continued provision for the financial needs of the academy and church, and
- more people to be called to and excited about ministry in Tioga/Nicetown.



Victor Manieson, our worship director (second from the right), was honored alongside other African-American composers in Philadelphia.

## We're praying with you!

If you're on our mailing list\*, you're on our prayer list! If there's anything specific that we can join with you in praying for, please let us know. (We will only publish your requests in this newsletter with your permission.)

Please do keep in touch! We're always delighted to hear from you and to pray with you!

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\* **Important:** If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we won't be offended! Just call or write us, and we'll remove you. (We'll still keep you on our prayer list!)

If you'd rather receive this letter via e-mail, please let us know, or subscribe to it at [crossandcrown.online/subscribe](https://crossandcrown.online/subscribe) !

## Did You Know?

The Catholic church recognizes about a dozen Saint Valentines, including one who served briefly as pope. Saint Valentine of Rome, for whom Valentine's Day is named, could have been one of two Catholic clerics, both of whom were martyred in the third century.

**Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. (Romans 13:8)**



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