

Serving God as Before

Daniel 6:10

Our text verse comes from a very familiar passage in Scripture. Daniel was a man who faithfully served the Lord, even in the midst of great adversity. As a young man he had been taken to Babylon along with the other captives from Judah. While in captivity, God prospered Daniel and promoted him to a position of recognition and authority among the king's advisors. He was known for wisdom and the kings of Babylon often sought counsel from Daniel. While having favor with the king, many of the natives of Babylon became envious of Daniel's position. They sought to remove Daniel from his place so they might enjoy greater recognition among the king's court.

Knowing Daniel was a man of great faith in the Lord, his accusers devised a plan. They knew if they were to entrap Daniel and remove him from his position, they would have to use his faithfulness to God against him. They convinced the king to pass a decree that no man could worship God or any other deity save the king for thirty days. As expected, Daniel continued to worship God and judgment was passed against him. He was thrown into the den of lions for his faithfulness to the Lord.

I have read only one verse from this great passage. It is a familiar account and we know that God miraculously delivered Daniel from the lion's mouths. I want to focus on the character and commitment of Daniel in the moments that led up to his conviction. We are not facing being thrown in a den of lions for our faith, but opposition is increasing in our society. We must develop the same commitment Daniel possessed if we are to endure. As we will discover, one cannot wait until adversity comes. We must be in the practice of service and worship before we are faced with adversity. Let's examine the [characteristics](#) of Daniel as we consider: [Serving God as Before](#).

I. The Awareness of Daniel (10) – [Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.](#) The remainder of this verse, and even the events that follow, reveal the actions of Daniel knowing the king had signed the decree. He was fully aware of the volatile situation he faced and the difficulties within society at this time. He was not unaware of his spiritual surroundings. We will discover that Daniel didn't allow the dictates of men to direct his life; he was fully aware of the tactics of the enemy and the troubles he faced regarding his walk with the Lord.

- I am not advocating that we live in fear, cowering to the immoral dictates of society, but we too must be aware of the difficulties and struggles of our day. We no longer live in a society that enjoys a moral majority. We have entered a post-Christian era in America. The majority doesn't support our biblical views or embrace our stand. We will never overcome the difficulties we face if

we are unwilling to admit they exist. We must be aware of the tactics of the enemy and the movement to silence the Christian voice! 1 Pet.5:8 – Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. 2 Tim.3:1; 12-14 – This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. ^[12] Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. ^[13] But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. ^[14] But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*.

II. The Boldness of Daniel (10) – Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, **he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.** Knowing the decree had been signed, and the possible implications it would have for him, we find Daniel engaged in an act of boldness. He was well aware the leadership of Babylon sought occasion to accuse him, and yet he went into his house, with the windows open, and prayed boldly unto the Lord. Daniel refused to allow evil men and their sinful desires hinder his walk with the Lord. He remained steadfast in his faith, boldly continuing to serve the Lord publicly. He was confident in the ability of the God he served. The Lord had kept him thus far, and Daniel had no doubt He would continue to do so.

- The current climate we face requires boldness. We are no longer the majority. The world doesn't embrace our faith and would rather not be confronted with it. They prefer we remain silent, serving the Lord quietly in the fringes of society. We too need the boldness of Daniel. We must be willing to stand publicly for our Lord and Savior. His sacrifice on the cross for us was a very public event. He stood against the tide of public opinion to fulfill God's plan of redemption. We cannot be content to serve the Lord quietly, hidden away from society. Everyone else seems to be coming out of the closet. It is time for believers to do the same! Josh.24:15 – **And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**

III. The Faithfulness of Daniel (10) – Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, **he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.** Daniel knew this was no time to abandon his faith. If he ever needed strength and guidance from the Lord, he needed it now. He didn't retreat in fear or refuse to pray. We find he remained faithful to the Lord, praying three times a day. Daniel would rather face the den of lions than miss a single opportunity to pray and commune with the Lord. He knew men had the ability to take his life, but he was secure in the hand of God. He would never dream of forsaking the Lord for the desires of men.

▪ This is a challenging and convicting aspect in the life of this faithful servant. He was committed to prayer and faithful to the Lord. Prayer is of utmost importance if we are to endure and survive the struggles we face. Daniel was committed to praying three times a day. I am sure these were not times of drudgery or vain repetition. He used this time to genuinely commune with God. Often we find it hard to make time for prayer earnestly once a day, much less three times a day. I am sure none among us feel they are as spiritual as the Lord, Jesus Christ. The Gospels reveal on many occasions His desire and need for prayer. If our Lord sensed the need to pray to the Father, surely you and I need to sense that great need as well. The struggles we face in life are more than we can bear or handle alone. We need daily fellowship and guidance from the Lord. This is only available as we commune with Him in prayer! [Matt.26:41 – Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.](#) [Eph.6:18 – Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.](#)

IV. The Thankfulness of Daniel (10) – [Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.](#) Isn't that an amazing discovery? Keep in mind the situation Daniel faced. A law had been passed that anyone caught worshipping or acknowledging any deity other than king Darius faced death at the mouths of hungry lions. Daniel knew he could die for exercising his faith. One would imagine he would have been defeated and even tempted to abandon his faith. That is not the case. Daniel is found giving thanks unto the Lord, even in the midst of a devastating situation. Daniel had come to the place spiritually where he realized that God was good all the time and worthy of praise and thanksgiving. He refused to allow circumstances hinder his gratitude.

▪ There is a great lesson here for each of us. Often our lives are dictated by circumstances. We focus more on the struggles and disappointments in life than the joy and victory we have in Christ. I am not making light of the difficulties any of us face, but they cannot compare to the joy and security we have in Christ. If I never received another blessing in this life, I would still be obligated to praise the Lord for His goodness in my life. If I were to lose everything I possess, I would still have far more than I deserve in Christ. He has purchased my redemption, pardoned my sin, placed me within the family of God, and granted eternal life! What could I possibly face that would prevent me from being thankful for the many blessings I have already received? Even in the valleys of life God is good and He is worthy of our praise and thanksgiving! [Psalm 34:1 – I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.](#) [1 Thes.5:18 – In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.](#)

V. The Steadfastness of Daniel (10) – Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, **as he did aforetime**. For me, this is a powerful characteristic of Daniel. When trouble came, in a mighty way against him, Daniel continued to serve the Lord as he had done before. He was not moved by outward circumstances. He refused to allow society to dictate his spiritual life and practice. He remained steadfast in his faith even in the midst of great adversity.

- Also, there is another important aspect we must not miss. Daniel had been serving the Lord for years prior to this difficult situation. He was already very familiar with the Lord, walking closely with Him daily, and he simply continued doing what he had always done. Daniel didn't wait for trouble to come and then run to the Lord in dismay. His life had been shaped by his relationship with the Lord and this difficulty did not alter or hinder that!

- Trouble and adversity are certain in this life. It is something we all have to face and none of us desire. We cannot allow the difficulties of life to hinder our commitment to the Lord. Troubles will continue as long as we live. In fact, I honestly believe they will increase for the believer. We must be settled in our faith and determined to serve the Lord regardless of circumstances.

- Also we need to be prepared as Daniel was. If you wait until trouble comes to seek the Lord, you will have a difficult time overcoming adversity. If you are not routinely walking with the Lord now, I doubt you will find the courage or desire to do so when faced with persecution for your faith. It is imperative that we develop a committed walk with the Lord now, so when adversity comes, we can continue to serve the Lord as before. There will be no need to make changes in your spiritual walk; you will have the ability to continue your familiar path! This will require focus and dedication, but it can be done with the help of the Lord. [Acts 5:29 – Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.](#) [Phil.1:20 – According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.](#)

Conclusion: Daniel stands as a great example for us to follow. He was aware of the spiritual climate of his day, and yet he remained bold and faithful to the Lord. In the midst of adversity he was thankful for God's blessings in his life. He refused to abandon his faith, regardless of the cost.

We need those with the faith and determination of Daniel. Where are you spiritually today? Are you willing to stand for the Lord when others are not? Are you prepared to stand in the face of intense persecution? Preparation ahead of time is the only way to ensure success. If you are not currently walking with the Lord, likely you won't when troubles come. If you need a closer relationship with Christ or are yet unsaved, come to Him today while there is time!