

STANDARDS & FOUNDATIONS

DANIEL'S RESPONSE



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In the last lesson we started down this journey of Daniel's faithfulness and his intentionality to prioritize devotion and prayer. Daniel made a decision early in his life that he was going to draw a line in the sand and no matter what happened, he would never find anything that would force him across that line even if it meant his life. Threatened by kings, subjects, imprisonment, and yes of course, lions; Daniel remained firmly planted because he chose to establish a lifestyle of prayer and faith at a young age. Because of this, God blessed not only Daniel, but the family of believers that Daniel surrounded himself with.

- Daniel and his cohorts refused to eat the king's meat and drink his wine, yet they were more nourished and cared for during their fasting.
- The Bible tells us that Daniel and his fellow subjects were also blessed in wisdom to such a degree that King Nebuchadnezzar preferred them even over his own magicians and astrologers.
- They were especially revered and protected by the king to a degree that not even the Babylonians could understand how they had risen to such prominence within the kingdom.

So here in Daniel 2, we find that King Nebuchadnezzar has had a dream that he requires interpretation for. The kicker is that not even the king remembers his own dream and that his decree is that someone recount both the dream and the meaning for him. Otherwise, all of the wise men in the court will be killed. His subjects are beside themselves with fear and confusion, knowing that their methods are unable to provide an answer.

But when Daniel hears of this decree, his response is that of someone that has lived in the presence of God and knows His voice as clearly as you could imagine. Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, and told them to seek mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

Daniel 2:17-19



Assured by Faith

Daniel's faith wasn't misplaced or uncertain, but rather he understood that his lifestyle and relationship with God had become so commonplace and natural that his prayers for "mercy" would align perfectly with the will of God.

The secret of Daniel's prayer life wasn't about the methods, location, or style. The thing that we miss on way too often is the importance of our alignment with God and His will. Daniel always positioned himself in such a way that his prayers were a reflection of what God was already in the middle of doing.

- That isn't to say that you can't change God's mind on some things as Abraham did.
- Or that you shouldn't pray for God's direction when you don't know how things are going to shake out.
- But Daniel walked in the Spirit like no one else, so much so that without even thinking, his actions reflected the intentions of God in these moments of uncertainty.

Daniel walked his walk, relied on his support system of fellow believers, and allowed the Holy Spirit to inform his actions every step of the way. There isn't a code to crack when it comes to our prayer lives. It's hard one day and then the next it is not. Our flesh is fighting us one second and in the next moment it is bowing to the power of the Holy Ghost living inside of us.

It Starts Simple

When we feel that check in our spirit or we get a bad feeling about the place that we are currently in we should stop what we are doing and remove ourselves from that environment, turn off the screen, drive out of the area; we need to respond in a way that shows that we are listening to the way God is leading us.



Daniel was unchanging. It didn't matter who was in power, who was standing in his way, or who wanted to kill him. The kingdom would change hands multiple times through his bondage in the land of Babylon and yet Daniel remained steadfast in who he was. One man had the ability to impact an entire nation:

- Daniel never allowed his circumstances to dictate him or grow fear within his mind. Fear is the enemy of faith.
- Daniel always kept his mission in front of him and allowed it to be the one thing that steered him. As believers, our mission should be unchanging and should be the one thing that points us as the sand shifts around us.
- Daniel understood his weapons. He weaponized his faith and used it as a showing of pure power. He could not be bought by fame or fortune, and he could not be swayed by threats. Faith and prayer cemented Daniel as a force to be reckoned with anywhere in the kingdom that he went.
- Finally, Daniel knew his enemy. The subjects and rulers that wanted to kill Daniel were just pawns in a bigger game; a game run by dark power, principalities, and spiritual oppression. Flesh and blood; our coworkers are not our enemies but rather broken people that are being deceived and are just in need of truth.

So as faithful believers, we need to ask some tough questions if we ever want to be like Daniel and walk in the same power and authority that he did.

- What is stopping us from being habitual, pathological people of prayer and spiritual things?
- What is that one thing that has us out of alignment and how do we kill it?
- Are we really accountable?
- Why are we so afraid of the unknowable uncertainty of life all the time?

