

# FEASTING ON THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

## Faithful to Make Successful

Daniel 1 – 3, 6, 9

INTRODUCTION: Welcome! More new faces! Welcome back!

Still glad to have those worshipping online with us.

Lifecchange groups

Youth Rush Hour

Next Week:

Kid Zone Live – K to 6<sup>th</sup> grade – take kids to KZ starting at 10:45 to check in.

Youth Lifecchange Groups – start in FH at 9:45

And to all you dads, HAPPY FATHER´S DAY. In a little bit we are going to look at what God did in the life of Daniel, but before we do, I want you watch this video with me.

### [FATHER´S DAY VIDEO \(4:30\)](#)

As far as we know, Daniel was never married and was never a father. So why look at Daniel on Father´s Day?

- Well I could say, Daniel had a father! But again we don´t know anything about the influence of Daniel´s father on his life.
- Here is the real reason. God was Daniel´s Heavenly Father. Whether God did it through an earthly father or in other ways, God was faithful to develop in Daniel things that made Daniel successful beyond measure.
- A captive became a Counselor to the King.
- A prisoner became a Prince with power.
- A poor boy became a young man with the wealth of an empire at his fingertips.

- And the same way God was faithful in Daniel's life to make him successful like this, he will do for any one of us, men.
- By the way ladies and young ladies, these same things won't hurt you either!

What did God do?

### **GOD WAS FAITHFUL TO GIVE DANIEL FAVOR WITH THOSE IN AUTHORITY.**

- Setting –

Dan. 1:1, 3 NKJV 1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. 3 Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles,

Captive in Babylon – older teen (Like Joseph and David) (teen yrs important!)

- Challenge (Pay attention when something becomes challenge.)

Dan. 1:5 NKJV And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king's delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of *that time* they might serve before the king.

This was a challenge because some of the foods were forbidden to God's people Israel.

Dan. 1:8 NKJV But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

And notice the next verse.

Dan. 1:9 NKJV Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs.

How do you think God gave Daniel and his friends favor with their supervisor?

- Humble, not arrogant
- Polite, respectful

- Worked hard at their studies, not lazy, nor trying to just slide by
- They asked rather than demanded – So Daniel asked Ashpenaz to let him eat food that God approved rather than the king’s food.
- Daniel made a wise and godly appeal to the man in charge.

Dan. 1:11-13 NKJV 11 So Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, 12 “Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. 13 Then let our appearance be examined before you, and the appearance of the young men who eat the portion of the king’s delicacies; and as you see fit, so deal with your servants.”

- **A godly appeal requests permission to obey and honor God.**
- **A godly appeal makes a humble and polite stand in favor of God.**
- **A godly appeal accepts the penalty imposed as the price for obeying God.**
- **A wise appeal finds a way to accomplish the authority’s purpose while still honoring God.**

Look at the results.

Dan. 1:14-21 NKJV 14 So he consented with them in this matter, and tested them ten days.

15 And at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king’s delicacies. 16 Thus the steward took away their portion of delicacies and the wine that they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

17 As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

18 Now at the end of the days, when the king had said that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. 19 Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king. 20 And in all matters of wisdom *and* understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians *and* astrologers who *were* in all his realm. 21 Thus Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus.

4 kings – Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius, and Cyrus

**GOD WAS FAITHFUL TO GIVE DANIEL FAVOR WITH THOSE IN AUTHORITY.**

Not just this once, but over and over and over again.

Teens, except for explaining to you how to be saved through faith in Christ,

And except for convincing you that this Bible is the Word of God which is perfectly true from cover to cover,

What I am telling you here may be the most helpful thing to you immediately and for the rest of your life if you would believe it, learn it, and do it.

God would also give you favor with those who are in authority if you would become as Daniel and his friends in character, attitude, and demeanor.

- **Humble, not arrogant**
- **Polite, respectful**
- **Work hard at your studies, not lazy, nor trying to just slide by**
- **Ask rather than demand**

Men, these same qualities serve us well as men also. We will all remain under someone's authority, often many someone's authority all of our lives.

Far from making us somebody's doormat, if we will practice these godly characteristics, God will give us favor with people in authority and advance us to the places God wants us to be.

And ladies, nothing makes you more beautiful or attractive while at the same time being respected for your skills and ability to work and contribute than to practice these life skills and let yourself be known by them.

On top of giving Daniel's favor with those in authority,

**GOD WAS FAITHFUL TO ANSWER DANIEL'S PRAYERS.**

- Daniel was a praying man. We know because the first time we see Daniel in great distress, his first response to the crisis is to pray.

- Men, when trouble comes, what is your first response?
  - Anger
  - Curse word
  - Despair
  - Solitude
  - What about prayer?
  - Why not ask God?
  - Why not seek His help in understanding, in responding?
- Nebuchadnezzar's dream
- Threat to the magi
- Daniel's response

Dan. 2:16-18 NKJV 16 So Daniel went in and asked the king to give him time, that he might tell the king the interpretation. 17 Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, 18 that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise *men* of Babylon.

And what happened?

Dan. 2:19 NKJV Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

Then what happened?

Daniel prayed a prayer of thanksgiving. He prayed, "Blessed be the God of Heaven!"

23 "I thank You and praise You,  
O God of my fathers;  
You have given me wisdom and might,

And have now made known to me what we asked of You,  
For You have made known to us the king's demand."

Then Daniel went in and told the dream to Nebuchadnezzar and explained it to him.  
And then,

Dan. 2:48 NKJV Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise *men* of Babylon.

- All of his life, Daniel continued to be a man of prayer.

After Nebuchadnezzar died and God took the kingdom of Babylonia from the hands of his grandson Belshazzar and gave the kingdom to the Medes and Persians, Daniel continued, known throughout the palace and the kingdom as a man who was faithful to his God as his God was faithful to him.

The governors and satraps were jealous of Daniel and they wanted him dead. So one day they went to King Darius to say,

Dan. 6:7, 9 NKJV 7 All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. 9 Therefore King Darius signed the written decree.

Be careful when someone says to you, "Everybody says or thinks..." A good response is, "Name 6!"

And what did Daniel do?

Dan. 6:10 NKJV Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.

King Darius did not want to throw Daniel to the lions, for God had given Daniel favor with the king. But the law of the Medes and the Persians could not be changed.

Dan. 6:16-23, 28 NKJV 16 So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast *him* into the den of lions. *But* the king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you." 17 Then a stone was brought and laid

on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signets of his lords, that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed.

18 Now the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; and no musicians were brought before him. Also his sleep went from him. 19 Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions. 20 And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?"

21 Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! 22 My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you."

23 Now the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God.

28 So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

#### **THE LORD WAS FAITHFUL TO GIVE DANIEL WISDOM.**

- God gave him wisdom through his studies. Learn the Theory of Evolution, just don't swallow it as truth. Better you know it, better you can spot and expose its flaws.
- God gave him wisdom through his study of God's Word.

Dan. 9:1-2 NKJV 1 In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans— 2 in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years *specified* by the word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

After coming to understand that the captivity would last 70 years, and the completion of that time was approaching, Daniel again went to prayer.

Daniel prayed one of the most beautiful, moving, prayers for his people, for Israel, a prayer of repentance for his nation's sins, and a prayer of exaltation of God and His purpose.

And before he said amen, the angel Gabriel appeared in front of him, and said God sent me to tell you His plan for His people.

And Gabriel gave to Daniel the Prophecy of the 70 Weeks, a prophecy that many Bible students and scholars alike believe is the key to unlocking all of the other prophecies concerning Israel and the End Times.

### **THE LORD WAS FAITHFUL TO GIVE DANIEL WISDOM.**

Fathers, men, ladies, teens, children, listen.

Our God is a faithful God. He is willing to give you good success.

- He will be faithful to give you favor with authorities if you will develop the godly character, attitudes, and habits that He blesses.
- He will be faithful to answer your prayers if you will truly be a man or woman of prayer.
- He will give you wisdom from on high if you will be a diligent student, and you will carefully study the Word of God, and then ask Him for understanding in prayer.

And with all of this, our Lord will make you all He has purposed for you to be from the foundation of the world.