

# A Lifetime of Faithfulness - Daniel Chapter 6

## Summary of the Story - Daniel mid-80's at this time - what was behind his lifetime of faithfulness to God

- Daniel was promoted to a place of great prominence because of his excellent spirit
- Other leaders became jealous - plotted to trap him - but could find no charge that would stick
- Convinced the king to issue a law forbidding prayer - Daniel was reported for breaking the law
- He was sentenced to death in the lions' den - tho the king did not desire this, he was duped
- God shut the mouths of the lions, and Daniel was preserved without harm.
- Then the king had Daniel's accusers thrown into the lions' den with their families.
- The king publicly honored Daniel's God after witnessing His deliverance.
- Daniel was restored to continued favor, peace, and prosperity in a foreign kingdom.

### 1) **Because an excellent spirit was in him** - he was rewarded by Darius

Dan 6: 3 Then this Daniel became **distinguished above all** the other presidents and satraps, **because an excellent spirit was in him**. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.

- **Excellent** - extraordinary, exceptional **spirit** - inner disposition, attitude
- **Inner man shaped by God** → **evident on the outside** - *the king recognized this about him*

**Gal 5:22-23** fruit of the Spirit - love joy peace patience kindness goodness faithfulness gentleness self-control

### 2) **Because he was faithful** - the other leaders were jealous and sought to bring him down

4 Then the presidents and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but **they could find no ground for complaint** or any fault, **because he was faithful**, and **no error or fault was found in him**.

- **Faithful** - reliable, he could be trusted in responsibility, can be depended on under weight - **proven**

**Luke 16:10** "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much..."

NO ERROR - a good steward, no negligence, sloppiness or carelessness (about his work)

- **Colossians 3:23** "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,"

NO FAULT corruption, moral decay, ruin - he had a pure inner life (about his character)

- **Proverbs 4:23** "Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life."

- **Faithful in keeping the law - he was so consistent, they knew in this area he would be caught**
  - 5 Then these men said, "We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel **unless we find it in connection with the law of his God**."
- **Faithful in spiritual habits - he did this before God, not to be seen by men**
  - 10 When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. **He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.**

### 3) **Because he was blameless**

22 My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, **because I was found blameless** before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm."

**Blameless** - clean - innocent - "no charge sticks" - he was innocent, God fought his battle

**Acts 24:16** "So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man."

### 4) **Because he had trusted in his God**

23 Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, **because he had trusted in his God**.

- **Trusted** same root as "faithful" now used Godward: to rely on, lean upon, depend fully

**Proverbs 3:5** "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding."

**Again we Daniel find making a tremendous impact on a pagan nation,**

**25 Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: "Peace be multiplied to you. 26 I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God, enduring forever; SLIDE his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end. 27 He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, he who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions."**

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

Summary:

**Daniel is in his mid-80's → he prospered through the reign of 7- 8 rulers**

There were 3 to 4 others between Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar

Because of an excellent spirit

1. His faithfulness was built on **pre-decided convictions** As a teenager he set his heart **Dan 1:8** "But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself..."

Because he was faithful

2. It flowed from **ordinary habits** - daily prayer

Because he was blameless

3. He practiced respectful engagement - in Babylon. He learned language, excelled in the systems and was respectful to the administration - but his identity was always as a man of God (Not isolation, Not compromise, But faithful presence)

Because he trusted God

4. He believed in the absolute **sovereignty of God** - He is the one who rules over the affairs of men, he lifts up one and brings down another