

Daily Devotional, October 19, 2021 Made to Stand in Faith Like Daniel

“But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.” Daniel 1:8 (NIV)

The Book of Daniel was written to the people of Judah during the middle of their Babylonian exile in order to encourage God’s people to seek Him. The book discloses how to serve God faithfully and to persevere in hope in the midst of national crises and hardship.

After the first invasion of Judah and the siege of Jerusalem, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon captured a group of young Israelite nobles in order to ensure his continued success. The king ordered his chief official to choose those youths who were without defect, strong, handsome, and intelligent. The goal was to educate them in the ways of the Babylonian culture and its many gods. One of the young men chosen was Daniel, a person of integrity. When Daniel was offered the king’s food and wine, he resolved not to defile himself. Eating any food prepared to Babylonian standards violated God’s laws concerning unclean foods (Leviticus 7:23-27). Also, it was considered a form of idolatry that would provoke a jealous God. At the age of fifteen, Daniel had the faith necessary to choose an uncompromising adherence to the Law of Moses he had been raised in.

When Daniel chose to put God first, God gave Daniel knowledge, skills, and wisdom; he stood out among all the others, and eventually Daniel was placed in a leadership position where he remained for the rest of his life. As a parent of two adult children, I worry about our young people spending more time in social media and less time in Christian community. It is my hope that our youth are spiritually formed so they do not compromise the Word of God. Just as with Daniel, God is more than able to do the same for our youth, but it is our responsibility as followers of Christ, to teach them to never compromise the biblical principles of love, justice, humility, and discipleship.

Later, in chapter 6 of the Book of Daniel, we learn that Daniel was thrown into a den full of lions. But he stood tall because he had faithfully knelt before the one true king—the God of Israel. It was his daily discipline of prayer that equipped him to face the scary test of the hungry lions and those of his peers who were attempting to destroy him. Being committed to a prayer life and then faithfully sticking to it made Daniel’s story so rich and powerful that it is still told thousands of years later—and still counting!

Daniel was strong, wise, and courageous, and God made each of us to be all of those things as well. What we must never forget is that the Holy Spirit living inside of us gives us a strength and spiritual discernment to persevere in hope much like Daniel. Choose wisely and trust in God’s plan for you

Prayer: Heavenly Father, You are my refuge and my strength in my days of trouble, yet I will sing Your praises forever. Rule over every area of my life and lead me into all that you have in store for me. In the name of Christ, I pray. Amen.