

WILL YOU STAND STRONG FOR GOD PUBLICLY?

1-27-2019

"Now Daniel so distinguished himself above all the other governors and administrators (satraps) by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to put Daniel in charge of the entire kingdom!" Daniel 6:3

"When the administrators heard the news, they tried to find a reason to undermine Daniel in his work and accuse him of misconduct, but they were unable to do so. They could not find anything to say against him! He was honest, reliable, hardworking, and incorruptible. He was never lazy or negligent in any task." Daniel 6:4

"His coworkers concluded 'Our only chance of finding any grounds to get rid of Daniel will be to find something to accuse in his religious practices.'" Daniel 6:5

"When Daniel learned that the new law had been signed, he went home and knelt down to pray as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows wide open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done his entire life, thanking and praising God. So Daniel's enemies went together to Daniel's house to catch him praying and asking for God's help." Daniel 6:10-11

WHY WAS DANIEL UNAFRAID TO STAND OUT AND SPEAK UP FOR GOD?

1. HE REMEMBERED THAT GOD HAD BEEN FAITHFUL IN PAST TESTS.
2. HE HAD A CONVERSATION WITH GOD 3 TIMES A DAY.
3. HE KNEW THE REWARDS WERE GREATER THAN THE RISK.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM DANIEL ABOUT STANDING FOR GOD IN TODAY'S CULTURE

1. BUILDS MY FAITH AND CHARACTER AND IS A VICTORY OVER FEAR.

"Lord, you know the threats people make. So help us as your servants to speak your Word without fear." Acts 4:29

for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, 2 Timothy 1:7-8

2. IT GIVES GOD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO A MIRACLE.

"At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the pit filled with lions. When he got there he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, 'Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?' Daniel answered, 'O king! My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions, and they have not hurt me at all, because God knew I've done nothing against him or you, O king!' The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the pit. And when Daniel was lifted out, there was not a single scratch on his body because he had trusted God." Daniel 6:19-23

3. IT ENCOURAGES OTHER BELIEVERS TO STAND UP.

Paul: "Because of what I've been through, many of the Christians here have gained confidence and become more bold in telling others about Christ." Philippians 1:14

4. IT'S A POWERFUL EXAMPLE TO UNBELIEVERS.

"When the Council saw the boldness of Peter and John, they were amazed, since they knew they were just ordinary men but they had been with Jesus!" Acts 4:13

5. I WILL BE REWARDED IN ETERNITY.

Jesus: *"Consider yourself blessed if people put you down or throw you out, or speak lies about you because of me. If that happens, be happy, knowing that you will be rewarded greatly in heaven! And remember you are in good company — they did the same to all my witnesses before you."*

Matthew 5:11-12