

BUILT BEFORE THE LION'S DEN

God prepares us for life's "lion's den" experiences as we live a life of faith demonstrated through excellence, integrity, discipline, and prayer.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ The biblical account of Daniel and the lion's den demonstrates God's supernatural deliverance. Yet before the miracle, Daniel was living a life of excellence demonstrated through integrity, discipline, and prayer. Daniel's time in the lion's den isn't just a story about how he behaved during a time of crisis; it's a guide on how Daniel lived before the crisis was even conceived.
- ❖ "Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities [or "excellent spirit," as noted in the KJV] that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom" (Daniel 6:3).
- ❖ At this stage in his life, Daniel was living in Babylon after many of the Jewish people had been taken there as captives. Though Daniel was serving a foreign empire within a culture and society that in many ways didn't align with his faith in God, he refused to allow an imperfect environment to become an excuse for mediocre living.
- ❖ Excellence is determined by **how you respond** to where God has placed you. Daniel distinguished himself by living a life of excellence demonstrated through integrity, discipline, and prayer.
- ❖ At times we may be inclined to separate what we view as "spiritual" from what we see as "practical." We may be tempted to pursue anointing without preparation, or to desire opportunity without development, or to reach for promotion without first maintaining discipline.
- ❖ The Lord doesn't just empower us to shout, praise, and worship. He also empowers us to serve with **excellence**. We need to prepare what we can, develop what God has given us, and then depend upon God for what only He can do.
- ❖ Daniel's enemies, upon hearing that the king planned to promote him, became jealous, and began investigating him (Dan. 6:3). But even though Daniel's enemies examined how he did his job and looked into his decision-making, responsibilities, and conduct, "...they could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent" (v. 4).
- ❖ There is a difference between our culture's definition of "excellence" and what Scripture says it is. The culture's definition of excellence tends to focus on "How **successful** am I?", while Biblical excellence is more about "How **faithful** am I to God?"
- ❖ From a secular perspective, we can be successful without integrity or demonstrate talent without character. We can be gifted without discipline or have influence without faithfulness. But this is not what God is calling us into.
- ❖ Our giftings and talents may build platforms and opportunities for us, but our godly character must be strong enough to allow us to thrive in the spaces where God places us.
- ❖ So, because of his conduct, Daniel's enemies concluded that if they were going to find something to use against him, it would have to involve his God.
- ❖ Oh, that we would have this testimony! That the only criticism people can bring against us is that we love God too much, that we pray, tithe, or worship God too much.
- ❖ Because of the words of Daniel's enemies, the king signed a decree that stated that for thirty days, nobody could pray to anyone except the king (vv. 8-9). And the penalty for disobeying this decree? To be thrown into the lion's den.

KEY SCRIPTURE: Daniel 6:1-23

(all scriptures in text are in NIV unless otherwise noted)

- ❖ When Daniel learned about the king's decree, he still **continued to pray** to God! "...Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, **just as he had done before**" (v. 10). Prayer was not a crisis response for Daniel; it was a way of life.
- ❖ The spiritual disciplines we practice consistently in our daily lives (i.e., prayer, faith, Bible study, worship, obedience, humility, etc.) prepares us for the extraordinary experiences God ushers us into.
- ❖ Our challenge with the lion's den story may lie in the fact that though Daniel prayed, he was still arrested. Though Daniel demonstrated integrity and discipline, his enemies still lobbed accusations against him. And though Daniel was faithful to God, he was still tossed into the lion's den. But "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).
- ❖ The king came to realize he was being manipulated by Daniel's enemies. But though he realized this, he could not reverse the decree. So, at daybreak, the king ran to the lion's den and cried out, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?" (Dan. 6:20).
- ❖ And Daniel, from the lion's den, was able to testify to the active intervention of God, who "...sent his angel, and...shut the mouths of the lions.... No wound was found on him" (v. 22-23).
- ❖ Daniel's deliverance became a witness to the king and, as a result, King Darius declared that Daniel's God was **the living God, the enduring God, the rescuing God, the saving God, and the miracle-working God** (v. 26-27).
- ❖ Excellence gets people's attention, and character earns credibility. But faithfulness expressed through a life of excellence points people to Jesus!
- ❖ "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).
- ❖ Our response to God's Word should be to pursue excellence, walk by faith, and remain faithful in prayer.
- ❖ God is more than able to prepare us for life's "lion den" experiences as we live a life of excellence demonstrated through integrity, discipline, and prayer.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Read Daniel 6:3-5. What qualities made Daniel stand out from those around him? What qualities should distinguish Christians from the world today?
2. Why is it important to develop spiritual disciplines before facing trials or pressure?
3. What are some spiritual disciplines the Bible encourages us to develop (e.g., Acts 2:42; Joshua 1:8)?

PRAYER TIME

Lord, help me to live a life of faith demonstrated through excellence, integrity, discipline, and prayer.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🤔 (Think about)
! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ➡️ (Must share)

Start-up: Have you ever had a "lion's den" experience? What things did it help teach you about yourself or about others?

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE
WORD

PRAYER FOCUS: F.S. students and teachers in our schools, colleges, and universities

24-hour Prayer: Daily;

Daily Devotions: Monday - Friday @ 6:30 a.m. & 9:00 p.m.;

Departmental Prayer: Every Thursday (please check schedule)

Corporate Prayer: Every Friday @ 7:00 p.m. (and in person every second Friday @ 9:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m.).

Zoom ID: 898 3191 5909 **Phone Access:** 647-374-4685

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

To donate online, please go to www.faithsanctuary.com/give

For email transfers, please use donate@faithsanctuary.com



MONTHLY LEADERS' MEETING

Sunday, September 27th @ 1:15 p.m. in the Upper Chapel.

OUTREACH DEPARTMENT

We are currently looking for more volunteers to join the Homeless Ministry and Prison Ministry teams. All are welcome to join! For more information, please contact Sis. Maude Chalifour.

STOREHOUSE

The following items are needed in the Storehouse: corned beef, sweet milk/evaporated milk, sardines, tuna, baked beans, oil, toothpaste, and coffee.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Contact: Bro. Richard or Sis. Naomi Daley



FAITH SANCTUARY WEEKLY SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service @ 11:00 a.m.

(Listen via phone: 1-844-268-4848)

Monday Berean Bible Study @ 6:30 p.m.

(Zoom, Facebook, YouTube)

Wednesday Bible Study @ 7:30 p.m.

(In person and via Zoom)

Friday Evening Service @ 8:00 p.m.

(In person and via Zoom)

Life Group Meetings – individually scheduled

(see ushers for information)

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026



Feed Canada to Feed the World



Pastor:

Rev. Adrian W. Peel

"I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. 'For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth....'"

Daniel 6:26-27 (NIV)

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