

DANIEL: FAITHFULNESS

By Rev. Dr. Jerry Schmoyer jerry@schmoyer.net
<http://www.mainstreetbaptist.org/> - <http://india.mainstreetbaptist.org/>

INTRODUCTION

SPONGE – under pressure shows what is within!

Same true of believers

How do YOU respond to pressure, trials, pain, difficulties?

Trait of believer is that he is FAITHFUL under pressure

**Anyone can follow when things going great, harder when
-at work -in marriage -with friends -with God!!!**

YOU & ME also, out under pressure shows what we are inside

Don't like pressure, avoid it, ask god to remove it

Necessary to SHOW OTHERS something different in us,

Pressure: opportunity to trust, stay faithful

What does God look for in us more than anything? FAITHFULNESS

Not just when it is easy, also under pressure

1 Cor 4:2 Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

WE focus on God being faithful to us when we need Him

Other times live as we like

Following Jesus means being faithful ALL THE TIME

Not just when its easy Especially so when its hard

That's when what is in us shows! SPONGE

TRANSITION Daniel great example whole life!

1. DANIEL 14 – INTO CAPTIVITY

DAN 1:1-2 = Taken into captivity

Family believers, name "God is my judge" = accountable to Him

FAMILY DEAD

Prayers for protection of self and family not answered

2. DANIEL 15 – STAND FOR BELIEFS

DAN 1:3-21 = Not eat king's food

Small compromise, save life so could do more good for God

God not answer prayer to save family, Why stay faithful now?

Faithfulness starts: -young -with little things

Luke 16:10-12 "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much ..."

It means willing to follow and obey God no matter consequence

-peer pressure -even death

Mark 8:35 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it

CONVICTIONS IN LIFE – stood faithful for what he believed

3. DANIEL 18 - KINGS CRISIS

DAN 2:1-48 = CRISIS EXPERIENCE

King's dream, no one can tell, all put to death

GREAT time to minister!– want to help king, others, not just self

Prayed with friends, God answered!

Statue, outline of history from then to when Jesus returns

4. DANIEL 20 - COURAGE

DAN 3:1-27 = IMAGE of Nebuchadnezzar to worship

JESUS the ONLY Way! Jn 14:7

HanAsMis into fiery furnace (Daniel gone)

God delivered, Neb gave credit to God

Be ready even to die for Jesus!

Acts 21:13 I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

COURAGE – to stand for faith - show what is inside **SPONGE**

TRANSITION Daniel faithful whole life long

FIREWORKS: great but short then over, like many bel

5. DANIEL'S VISION # 1 & 2 53 yrs old

Daniel 7 and 8 VISION: same as large image, but animals again show history of world, then to end

Christian life a MARATHON, not series of 100 yard dashes

6. NEBUCHADNEZZAR HUMBLLED 76

NEB: dream , great tree cut down! Daniel gave meaning/interp Neb a bel but pride & self-centeredness ruled

Neb be humbled, cut down - Pride in way of submitting to God lost mind, lived/ate like animal - 7 years

did humble self, restored by God (Grace) wrote trac

7. HANDWRITING ON THE WALL 86

BELSHAZZAR replaced father NEB as king of Bab

proud, mocked God - blasphemed God, utensils from Tab orgy God wrote on wall - judgment coming

Only Daniel could interpret it! - Dan promoted, rewarded

DARIUS & Medo-Persia replaced Bab as world ruler

Daniel given high job by Darius

STAY FAITHFUL whole life - Always be ready to serve

Matt 24:45-46 "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.

TRANSITION

Event Daniel best known for:

8. THE LION'S DEN 93 yrs old

DARIUS: proud, self-sufficient

tricked into signing law so only he worshipped

purpose: catch Daniel, execute, remove (couldn't find sin)

DANIEL: faithful into praying to God, even if die

God protected in lion's den - Enemies destroyed

PAUL willing to die for his faith

Acts 20:24 However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me — the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.

Don't be surprised when believers have to stand for faith

God will bless and reward when we are faithful!

Rev 2:10 Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.

When facing these things just keep eyes on Jesus, let Him lead

Don't fear, panic, etc – trust him all the more

Riding donkey into Grand Canyon on ledge, trust donkey

9. DANIEL'S VISION # 3 95yrs old

DANIEL praying (GREAT prayer life)

1. confession of sin of nation
2. thanksgiving/praise: God keeps His word, right, sov
3. intercession: for Jews to return to land
4. request for self: answer my prayer

ANSWER TO PRAYER (future of Jews?)

70 7-year periods (God sovereign over history)

Olivet Discourse, Revelation fill in details

CONCLUSION

Trials and pressures are to show our faithfulness

-example to others, like Daniel to Neb, Bel, others in country

Faithfull his whole life

JUST LIKE LPAUL

2 Tim 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

GUITAR, violin, tighten strings (painful) = best music

Careful, not to hurt but to help

1 Cor 4:2 Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.