

## DANIEL'S FAITHFULNESS TO HIS GOD

(Dan.1:1ff) The book of Daniel tells fascinating stories of God's care for the people who take a stand for Him. (*Christianity, not just a garden of flowers where we are like butterflies jumping from one bed of flower to another; it's not just about our getting financial breakthroughs*)

The devil is in the business of brainstorming children of God by infecting them with standards and values which are not from heaven so that he can destroy their faith. Sometimes challenging your faith, by planting you in a place where you will feel the power of the "majority" like he did with Daniel. In **(1 Timothy 1:19)** Paul warned Timothy that in times of trial, some would cast aside their faith, he said, *"hold your faith and a good conscience, because by rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith."* In **(2 Timothy 2:18)** He added that Satan would attempt to *"overthrow the faith of some"*. Therefore Paul charged Timothy to fight a determined warfare, "holding faith, and a good conscience" This is what Daniel did! In Daniel's time, there's the overwhelming presence of the power of the majority to challenge his faithfulness to His God.

In **(Luke 22:31,32)** The apostle Peter came under attack against his faith. His trust in Jesus was so much challenged that Satan even asked permission to sift him to see if he would stand. *"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: I have prayed for thee, that thy faith may not fail: and when you have turned again, strengthen your brethren"*

In **Revelation 2:10** *"Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days, ... Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."*

As we read Daniel, we come to believe that God actually wants the best, and not the "rest" but in Daniel we also note that as God is looking for the best, Satan is also looking for the best! From **vs. 3-5**, the King's command, was very clear; "to bring the people of Israel, both of the **royal** family and of the **nobility**, important people; youths without blemish, of good appearance and skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to stand in the king's palace.

So the devil also wants the "best" and not the "rest"? Because you see it explains why Satan wanted to be God in the first place. Nebuchadnezzar's policy of

bringing the royalty and intelligent of a conquered land, was meant to change the world view as well as spiritual, social aspects of those people. This is what he did in Gen.3 he changed the way Eve was looking at things, and here we see Nebuchadnezzar changing the way Daniel and all other friends had been looking at things! He even determined the food, drink and the education.

Now recently I have been worried about the coming of International schools in Uganda. But the bible says in **vs. 8** that despite all these; *“Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself”* Daniel’s faithfulness needed him to make a *resolution*, to avoid *“pollution”* from the community. The Babylonians could change Daniel’s home, his education etc, but they could not change his heart! He purposed in his heart! Just like Paul and Barnabas urged the early Christians in **Acts 11:23**, that with *“purpose of heart, they would cleave to the Lord!”*

Faithfulness at all levels, requires that you purpose to make a divine “resolution”! Even in marriage, you cannot be faithful unless you make a divine resolution!! You can’t be faithful with finances unless you resolve! The chief of the Eunuch thought that by being faithful, Daniel would be in what he described as “the worst condition” But Daniel challenged the man in (**Dan 1:12**) *“Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink.* It is clear that Daniel wasn’t practicing tolerance here!

The only way to keep from defilement is by making a divine resolution! When you make a divine resolution, you must follow it up with a prophetic statement of faith! Let me tell you what faith is not. Faith is not confidence in your own belief! Again faith is not taking a risk! Its confidence in our God! I have heard people saying, believe in yourself... no! Confidence based on assurances that have no scriptural support are very dangerous!

When you make a divine resolution to be faithful to God, things are already better! In **Dan 1:15**, the bible says that *“at the end of ten days, it was seen... that they were better in appearance and fatter in flesh than all the youths who ate the king's food.*

Divine resolutions have a way of making things better! (*Testimonies of people who refused bribes and even sacked because of that, but later they got a job, better than the one they had!*)

Divine resolutions keep you within the will of God. Daniel walked in the will of God! he lived in the will of God, he thought the will of God, he ate in the will of

God, he drank according to the will of God!! it was total submission to God.! He knew he could not survive without God. Our society today has conditioned us to think that dependence on God is a sign of weakness, and so we stay out of God's will, but let me tell you, It is better to die in the will of God, than live outside of it! Are you living for God or for yourself? Daniel is an example of living for God.

Divine resolutions can result into fruitfulness! Look at **vs.17**, *"As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams."*

Our resolutions shall turn into avenues through which the Spirit of God will reveal deeper things to us! We should never give up on God because he never gives up on you!

Divine resolutions lead to promotions! (**Dan.2:48**) it says, *"Then the king gave Daniel high honors and many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon."*