

Disciplined Soldier



Scripture: [Daniel 5: 11-12](#) and [Daniel 1:8](#)

“There is a man in thy kingdom, in whom is the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him; whom the king Nebuchadnezzar thy father, the king, I say, thy father, made master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers; forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and showing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel..”

Daniel 1:8 “But Daniel purposed in his heart....”

Introduction:

What caused Daniel to be a man that even unsaved people would make such a big fuss about his spirit filled life?

Daniel, taken as a prisoner of war, as a youth from his homeland of Israel, spends his lifetime in the city of Babylon as a captive. Yet during 70 plus years we see him weather the reigns of several heathen kings and their conquerors, yet he remains in a position of influence.

He was extremely well thought of with a reputation of excellence for an extended period of history yet, in a country as a POW remaining disciplined as a soldier of God, never compromising his principles even though he is a stranger in a foreign land, even with the temptation of “fitting-in”, even though it would have been just easier to “give-up”.

How did Daniel become known as a man of “Understanding and Excellent Wisdom”? Was he born with it? Not hardly! He sought God’s will in everything! The Bible says: ***Daniel purposed in his heart.***

Daniel decided **ON PURPOSE** to live a life that glorified God. A POW has to live on purpose to survive. We see Daniel not only survive, he also rose to become respected and revered by his conquerors.

Disciplined Physical Condition:

You mean that how I take care of this physical body matters to God? Yes, on earth you get only one life and one body. You don’t get to trade it in for a new one if you mess yours up.

Eating right from your youth up avoids multiple health problems.

Taking care of your physical condition makes you more credible and respected in the eyes of mankind, also.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 *What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.*

This passage in Corinthians is written to the believer. Once you are born-again/saved then you fall directly under this discipline requirement.

No one is born with a perfect body; there are health issues, limitations, and disabilities to deal with. But you should take care of your body and the circumstances you are handed.

Your testimony is vital in your service for the Lord, as well. For example, when a Christian smokes most people, even unsaved people, consider it a poor testimony. Additionally, eating recklessly is just as damaging to the body as smoking or any other abuse willfully taken.

Daniel 1: 8-16 is an extensive “testimony” of young Daniel and his three friends [later named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego], refusing to eat the food that Babylonians ate nor drink the fermented wines that they commonly consumed in that country.

The leaders over these young prisoners were curious, intrigued, and set out to prove whether or not the diet differences indeed would be noticeable between the Hebrews and themselves. At the end of a ten day test, the captors were impressed with the difference in the health of Daniel and his people in comparison to their own cultural eating habits.

As a young man Daniel had set the standard for his physical condition with discipline. Asking for a different diet than his captors took some nerve; but he proved that he had wisdom and understanding by his testimony of keeping the Jewish Law. A point was made with the captors early on. Yes, your disciplined physical condition matters.

Disciplined Prayer Regimen:

In Daniel Chapter 6 we find Daniel in his older years, a seasoned leader in Babylon having survived the reign of several kings and now the conqueror Darius is in power. Daniel is still considered a POW as a Hebrew, a conquest of previous kings. Yet he had moved up in his influence and office in the city because of his recognized wisdom and understanding for about six decades.

Darius sets up his governmental structure. Having been highly impressed with Daniel’s reputation, he places him high in the government.

Daniel 6:3 Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

The other princes and leaders get together and decide that one of them should be top ruler instead of this “Hebrew Superhero” fellow.

Jealousy does that; it brings out the want-a-be leaders by the dozens. These Babylonians were jealous of the wisdom and understanding Daniel had that he got from God. However, they wanted church and religion their way and weren’t willing to forsake their lifestyles for the Living God. They just wanted position and recognition.

They began to watch Daniel to find something to slander him with.

Daniel 6: 4-5sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could not.....he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him. Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.

They convince King Darius that he needs a law that only he can be worshipped for 30 days. Ego comes into play, he goes for it. But these men are not out to flatter King Darius, no, they are out to convict and bring down Daniel.

Had Daniel done anything to them?

Daniel 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

Daniel goes to his window like he does every day; he opens it; kneels down and prays to God just like he has all of his lifetime. GOTCHA, they think. They run to the King, tell a twisted story out of context and Daniel is thrown into the Lion’s Den for not praying to King Darius instead of God.

King Darius is bound by the deadly law he has been duped into signing. He realizes he has just forced his top notch wisest man in Babylon into the Lion’s Den. But do you know what he says: **THY GOD WHOM THOU SERVEST CONTINUALLY, HE WILL DELIVER THEE. Daniel 6:16**

Foiled again; things look bad for Daniel but instead the heathen King realizes the Living God is for Real; Daniel gets written up in the pages of Biblical history, and every child in church hears the story of Daniel and the Lion's Den.

Daniel had a disciplined prayer life! Prayer is talking to God. We seem to take it so lightly, but we have the opportunity to talk to and visit with the Creator of the universe. Daniel decided it was more important to talk to God than worry about a foolish law that forbade praying to God.

What about you? Are you more concerned about what your peers and others think about you? Daniel knew who he wanted to please.

Daniel's enemies knew that if they could get him to stop praying, they could defeat him.

Do you know why the average Christian does not have any power? The Devil has duped us into being afraid to pray in public. Worrying about what your friends think is not going to benefit you in the long run. Many of the "friends" you have now, you will not be able to remember their names when you are about ten years older.

An excellent spirit comes from pleasing God, not your friends.

Disciplined Purposed Life:

When you live on purpose for God trusting God to direct your thought and actions, then you don't need to worry. He has your back.

Daniel's dilemma didn't even keep him from a good night's sleep! Because he was living according to the principles spelled out in this Holy Book and he was in fellowship with God, then he didn't need to worry. He slept right through the night with hungry lions! It was faith, built over a lifetime of disciplined purposeful living that gave him what he needed to walk into the den of lions and sleep through the night.

We need more Daniels.

Daniel did right because he knew that God is real and that he should be the most excellent ambassador that he could be. Not to be known for his own excellence, because he knew that his excellence came from God alone.

Conclusion:

Daniel earns a place among the War Heroes of the faith.

Hebrews 11:33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions.

Hebrews 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.

(Present salvation here.)