

Dare To Be A Daniel

Intro:

A. **Romans 15:4; 1 Cor 10:11-12**

B. We sing the song - Dare to stand like Joshua - this morning I would like to challenge both young and old alike to "Dare to be a Daniel" As we examine the life of Daniel we can learn many things but we want to focus on just three:

1. Daniel Was A Man Of Purpose
2. Daniel Was A Man Of Principle
3. Daniel Was A Man Of Prayer

II. Daniel Was A Man Of Purpose

A. "Daniel Purposed In His Heart That He Would NOT Defile Himself . . ." - **Dan 1:8**

B. How Did Daniel Hold To His Commitment?

1. With **politeness and humility**- **Dan 1:8b, 12**

a. **Daniel 1:8b** ---- therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

b. **Daniel 1:12** ---- 12 "Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink.

2. With **God's help** - **Dan 1:9**

a. **Daniel 1:9** ---- 9 Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs.

3. Through **persistence** - **Dan 1:10-11**

a. **Daniel 1:10-11**---- 10 And the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, "I fear my lord the king, who has appointed your food and drink. For why should he see your faces looking worse than the young men who *are* your age? Then you would endanger my head before the king." 11 So Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,

4. With **Trust In God** - **Dan 1:12-15**

a. **Daniel 1:12-15** ---- 12 "Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. 13 "Then let our appearance be examined before you, and the appearance of the young men who eat the portion of the king's delicacies; and as you see fit, *so* deal with your servants." 14 So he consented with them in this matter, and tested them ten days. 15 And at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies.

5. With the **help of others** - **Dan 1:13**

a. **Daniel 1:13** "Then let our appearance be examined before you, and the appearance of the young men who eat the portion of the king's delicacies; and as you see fit, *so* deal with your servants."

C. The Value Of Such Purpose & Faith Seen In The Results...

1. It **affected the lives of others!** - **Dan 1:15-16**

a. **Daniel 1:15-16** ---- 15 And at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies. 16 Thus the steward took away their portion of delicacies and the wine that they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

2. **God blessed** Daniel and his friends! - **Dan 1:17-20**

a. **Daniel 1:17-20** ---- 17 As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. 18 Now at the end of the days, when the king had said that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. 19 Then the king interviewed them, and among them

all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king.²⁰ And in all matters of wisdom *and* understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians *and* astrologers who *were* in all his realm.

3. Daniel continued in the court seventy years! - **Dan 1:21**
 - a. **Daniel 1:21** ---- 21 Thus Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus.
4. Laid a foundation for the future – **5:11,12; 6:3-5,10**
 - a. **Daniel 5:11-12** ---- 11 “There is a man in your kingdom in whom *is* the Spirit of the Holy God. And in the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, were found in him; and King Nebuchadnezzar your father —your father the king—made him chief of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, *and* soothsayers.¹² “Inasmuch as an excellent spirit, knowledge, understanding, interpreting dreams, solving riddles, and explaining enigmas were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar, now let Daniel be called, and he will give the interpretation.”
 - b. **Daniel 6:3-5,10** ---- 3 Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit *was* in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm.⁴ So the governors and satraps sought to find *some* charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he *was* faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him.⁵ Then these men said, “We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find *it* against him concerning the law of his God.”
 - c. **Vrs 10** Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.
- D. We Must Be A People of Purpose!
 1. Not to be defiled by things of the world! – **2 Cor 6:14-7:1; Heb 12:15; Jude 1:23**
 - a. **2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1** ---- 14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?¹⁵ And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?¹⁶ And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them And walk among *them*. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.” ¹⁷ Therefore “Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.” ¹⁸ “I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty.” vrs 1. Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
 - b. **Hebrews 12:15** ---- 15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;
 - c. **Jude 23** ---- 23 but others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.
 2. To seek the kingdom of God & His Righteousness! – **Mat 6:33**
 - a. **Matthew 6:33** ---- 33 “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
 3. To be spiritually minded – not fleshly minded! – **Rom 8:1,2,5-9,12-14**
 - a. **Romans 8:1-2** ---- *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.
 - b. **Romans 8:5-9** ---- 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.⁶ For to be carnally

minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.⁷ Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.⁹ But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

- c. **Romans 8:12-14** ---- 12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.
4. Without being abrasive – **Tit 3:2**
 - a. **Titus 3:2** ---- 2 to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.

III. Daniel Was A Man Of Principle

- A. He Refused To Compromise His Convictions...
 1. Refused to eat the king's meat or drink his wine - **Dan 1:8**
 2. Refused the gifts of Belshazzar - **Dan 5:13-17**
 3. Under the threat of persecution, by refusing to obey the decree of Darius - **Dan 6:10**
- B. Daniel was hated by his enemies - **Dan 6:3-5**
 1. **Daniel 6:3-5** ---- 3 Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit *was* in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm.⁴ So the governors and satraps sought to find *some* charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he *was* faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him.⁵ Then these men said, “We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find *it* against him concerning the law of his God.”
 2. Daniel’s uncompromising spirit was used against him - **Dan 6:5-13**
 3. In the end – Daniel’s uncompromising spirit brought him respect - **Dan 6:14-28**
- C. We Too Must Refuse To Compromise Our Convictions...
 1. Moral purity – **Gen 39:9-12; 1Co 6:18; Eph. 5:1-12; Rom 14:23; Ps 15:1-5**
 - a. **Psalm 15:1-5** ---- 1 LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? 2 He who walks uprightly, And works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart; 3 He *who* does not backbite with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend; 4 In whose eyes a vile person is despised, But he honors those who fear the Lord; He *who* swears to his own hurt and does not change; 5 He *who* does not put out his money at usury, Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these *things* shall never be moved.
 - b. **1 Corinthians 6:18** ---- 18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.
 2. Doctrinal soundness – **1 Tim 4:16; 6:3; 2 Tim 1:13; Titus 2:6-10; 2 John 1:9**
 - a. **Titus 2:6-10** ---- 6 Likewise exhort the young men to be sober-minded,⁷ in all things showing yourself *to be* a pattern of good works; in doctrine *showing* integrity, reverence, incorruptibility,⁸ sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.⁹ Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all *things*, not answering back,¹⁰ not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.
 3. Scriptural worship – **Jn 4:24; Eph 5:19**
 - a. **John 4:24** ---- 24 “God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”
 4. Serving the Lord – **Col 3:17; Rom 12:11; Mat 6:33; Heb 10:24,25**
 - a. **Romans 12:11** ---- 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;
 5. Even if we suffer for it - **1 Peter 4:12-19**

- a. **1 Peter 4:16-17** ---- 16 Yet if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter. 17 For the time *has come* for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what will *be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?
- b. Many may ridicule you - but inwardly they wish they had the same intestinal fortitude!!
- c. And when they need someone that can be trusted, and depended upon to carry through with an assigned task, who do you think they will turn to?

IV. **Daniel Was A Man Of Prayer**

- A. **Daniel 6:10** (NKJV) ---- Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and **prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.**
 1. He knew that praying to God could **cost him his life!** **6:10; Acts 4:17-19; 5:29**
 - a. **Acts 4:17-19** ---- 17 “But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name.” 18 And they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.
 - b. **Acts 5:29** ---- 29 But Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said: “We ought to obey God rather than men.
 2. He prayed **according to the scriptures!** - **1 Kings 8:30,38,44,48-50**
 3. His prayers **demonstrated humility** - **1 Kings 8:54; Psalm 95:6; Luke 22:41; Acts 7:60; 9:40; 20:36; 21:5; Ephes. 3:14**
 - a. **1 Kings 8:54** ---- 54 And so it was, when Solomon had finished praying all this prayer and supplication to the LORD, that he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven.
 4. He prayed **regularly** – **6:13; Ps 55:17; 86:3**
 - a. **Psalm 55:7** ---- 7 Indeed, I would wander far off, *And* remain in the wilderness. Selah
 5. Included **thanksgiving** - **Phil. 4:6; Col. 3:17; 1 Thes. 5:17-18; Hebrews 13:15**
 - a. **1 Thessalonians 5:17-18** ---- 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
 6. “His custom since **early days**” – **Eccl 12:1**
 - a. **Ecclesiastes 12:1** ---- Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, “I have no pleasure in them”:
- B. **We Too Should Be A People of Prayer!!**
 1. Even when **not convenient** – **Rom 8:26;**
 - a. **Romans 8:26** ---- 26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.
 2. According to **His will** – **Mt 6:5-15; 1 John 5:14**
 - a. **1 John 5:14** ---- 14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.
 3. With **humility** – **Luke 18:13**
 - a. **Luke 18:13** ---- 13 “**And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’**”
 4. **Regularly** – **Luke 18:1; 1 Thes. 5:17**
 - a. **Luke 18:1** ---- Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,
 5. With **thanksgiving** - **Phil. 4:6; Col. 3:17; 1 Thes. 5:17-18; Heb 13:15**

- a. **Hebrews 13:15** ---- 15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name.
- 6. A **custom!** – **Rom 12:12; Col. 4:2**
 - a. **Romans 12:12** ---- 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;
- 7. Seeking **God’s help** – **Phi 4:6; Ephes. 6:18**
 - a. **Philippians 4:6** ---- 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;
 - b. **Ephesians 6:18** ---- 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—
- C. **Why Some Do NOT Pray As They Should . . .**
 - 1. Too **busy** - (cf., **Luke 8:14**).
 - a. **Luke 8:14** ---- 14 “Now the ones *that* fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.
 - 2. **Entertain** sin in their lives – (**Psalms 66:18; Proverbs 28:9; 1 Peter 3:12; 1 John 3:22**).
 - a. **Psalm 66:18** ---- 18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.
 - b. **Proverbs 28:9** ---- 9 One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer *is* an abomination.
 - 3. May think praying in **worship service enough** - (**Acts 4:23-31; Mat 6:6; Rom 12:12; Col 4:2; Luke 18:1; 1 Thes 5:17**).
 - a. **Matthew 6:6** ---- 6 “**But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.**
 - 4. Many reason that God **knows all our needs already** - (**Mat 6:7, 8, 31, 32; Heb 4:13; but - Phil 4:6; Col 4:2; Eph 5:20; 1 Tim 4:4**).
 - a. **1 Timothy 4:4** ---- 4 For every creature of God *is* good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving;
 - b. **Matthew 6:7-8,31-32** ---- 7 “**And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen *do*. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.**8 “**Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.**
 - c. 31 “**Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’**32 “**For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.**
 - 5. They lack faith – **Luke 18:2-8; 1 Peter 5:7**
 - a. **Luke 18:2-8** ---- 2 saying: “**There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man.**3 “**Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, ‘Get justice for me from my adversary.’**4 “**And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, ‘Though I do not fear God nor regard man,**5 **‘yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.’**”6 Then the Lord said, “**Hear what the unjust judge said.**7 “**And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?**8 “**I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”**

V. **In Conclusion:**

- A. Daniel Was A Man Of Purpose
 - 1. Be a child of God with Purpose today!
- B. Daniel Was A Man Of Principle
 - 1. Be a Christian with Principles that are unwavering.
- C. Daniel Was A Man Of Prayer
 - 1. Be a child who understands our dependency upon the Lord for everything.