

Monday: The Danger of Pride

Reading: Daniel 5:1-9

Pride often blinds us to our true condition before God. Belshazzar's feast demonstrates how easily we can become intoxicated with our own sense of power and importance. Yet, as we see in this passage, God has ways of dramatically reminding us of our vulnerability and need for Him.

Today, reflect on areas in your life where pride might be creeping in. Are there places where you're relying on your own strength rather than God's? Remember, true security comes not from our accomplishments or status, but from our relationship with the Lord. Ask God to help you cultivate a humble heart that recognizes its constant need for His grace and guidance.

Tuesday: God Sees and Knows All

Reading: Daniel 5:10-17

In today's passage, we're reminded that nothing is hidden from God's sight. While Belshazzar thought he could mock God without consequence, the sudden appearance of the writing on the wall shattered his illusion of control.

God's omniscience can be both comforting and challenging. It's comforting to know that He sees our struggles and understands our hearts. Yet it's also a sobering reminder that we can't hide our sins or shortcomings from Him.

Today, spend time in honest prayer, acknowledging to God the things you might be trying to keep hidden. Remember that His perfect knowledge of us is paired with perfect love. He sees us fully and loves us completely.

Wednesday: Standing Unshaken in Christ

Reading: Hebrews 12:25-29

As we conclude our study, we're reminded that while earthly kingdoms fall, God's kingdom remains unshakable. Those who belong to Christ are part of this eternal kingdom. The key is to receive God's word with humility rather than hardening our hearts like Belshazzar did. When we encounter God's truth - even when it shakes us - we have a choice. We can stubbornly cling to our pride, or we can allow that shaking to drive us closer to Christ, our unshakable foundation.

Today, reflect on how you typically respond when God's word challenges you. Do you tend to become defensive, or do you allow it to soften your heart?

Ask God to help you cultivate a humble, teachable spirit that runs to Him, especially in times of difficulty or conviction. Remember, in Christ, you stand on a foundation that cannot be moved.

Unshaken: *Because He Reigns* Use these days (Thursday - Saturday) to prepare for worship on Sunday, October 12.

Study Guide: Daniel 6

Thursday Faithful in a Corrupt World

Daniel 6:1–9 (ESV) It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps, to be throughout the whole kingdom; and over them three high officials, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss. Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. Then the high officials and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him. Then these men said, "We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God."

Then these high officials and satraps came by agreement to the king and said to him, "O King Darius, live forever! All the high officials of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked." Therefore King Darius signed the document and injunction.

Historical Background

- Persian law was famous for being irrevocable once sealed with the king's signet.
- The decree promoted the king's honor above all gods—a political move that Daniel's rivals used to trap him.
- Daniel is now in his eighties. Decades later, his faith and integrity still set him apart.

Discussion Questions

1. What stands out about Daniel's reputation among unbelievers?
 2. How does this conspiracy mirror the pride and manipulation seen in earlier chapters?
 3. When are we most tempted to soften our faithfulness to God for comfort or acceptance?
-

Friday: Faith Tested and Found True

Daniel 6:10–18 (ESV) When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously. Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God. Then they came near and said before the king, concerning the injunction, “O king! Did you not sign an injunction, that anyone who makes petition to any god or man within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?” The king answered and said, “The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked.” Then they answered and said before the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or the injunction you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day.”

Then the king, when he heard these words, was much distressed and set his mind to deliver Daniel. And he labored till the sun went down to rescue him. Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, “Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed.” Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!” And a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no diversions were brought to him, and sleep fled from him.

Historical Background

- Praying toward Jerusalem (see 1 Kings 8:44–48) was an act of covenant hope. Daniel’s faith pointed toward God’s promised restoration.
- The den of lions was a genuine execution pit, symbolizing complete hopelessness once sealed.
- Darius’s anguish highlights the limits of human authority compared to God’s sovereignty.

Discussion Questions

1. Why does Daniel continue praying openly rather than hiding his devotion?
 2. What does Darius’s inability to save Daniel show about the difference between human power and God’s power?
 3. How can we develop daily faithfulness so that when our faith is tested, our habits hold us steady?
-

Saturday: God Delivers and His Kingdom Endures

Daniel 6:19–28 (ESV) Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions. As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, “O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?” Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever! My God sent his angel and shut the lions’ mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm.”

Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. And the king commanded, and those men who had maliciously accused Daniel were brought and cast into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives. And before they reached the bottom of the den, the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces.

Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: “Peace be multiplied to you. I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end. He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, he who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions.” So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Historical Background

- Persian law required false accusers to receive the penalty they intended for their victim, hence the conspirators’ fate.
- Darius’s decree mirrors Nebuchadnezzar’s earlier confessions, reaffirming God’s supremacy over all kings.
- Daniel’s deliverance points forward to Christ: the sealed stone, the dawn of deliverance, and the vindication of the righteous one.

Discussion Questions

1. What does Daniel’s deliverance teach us about God’s faithfulness to those who trust Him?
2. How does this miracle reveal that true power and lasting dominion belong only to God?
3. In what ways does Daniel’s rescue foreshadow the resurrection hope we have in Jesus Christ?