

Daniel: Living Faithful in Tough Places and in Hard Times

Living the Christian life isn't easy. Our enemy is seeking to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10). Are we equipping God's people in live in a hostile environment? Many people don't believe Jesus is the only way to Heaven, they don't believe the Bible is the authoritative Word of God, and they don't see the relevance of the local church. How do we live faithful in tough places and in hard times?

Daniel was a young man with a heart for God. He was faithful in many ways.

- _____
- _____
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How do you and I serve God in tough times? How do we live faithful in hard places?

1. We take care of our _____.

Daniel 1:12-16 – *Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then let our appearance and the appearance of the youths who eat the king's food be observed by you, and deal with your servants according to what you see." So he listened to them in this matter, and tested them for ten days. 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. So the steward took away their food and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.*

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____ (recreation)
5. _____

2. We face trials with _____.

Daniel 3:16-18 – *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."*

1. Faith is _____
 2. God is _____
 3. Peace is _____
 4. Trust is _____
 5. Compromise isn't _____
3. We practice the _____.

Daniel 6:10-13 – *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."*

1. The power of _____
 2. The relevance of _____
 3. The sacrifice of _____
 4. The use of _____
 5. The benefits of _____
 6. The elimination of _____
 7. The joy of _____
4. We desire a _____.

Daniel 9:3-6 – *Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession, saying, "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules. We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land."*

1. When have we turned our _____ to the Lord?
2. When have we given up _____ to spend time with the Lord?
3. When have we _____ the Lord in the splendor of His holiness?
4. When have we confessed our _____ to the Lord?

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Daniel was a young man with a heart for God. He was faithful in many ways.

- God
- Food
- Prayer
- Pressure
- Ministry
- Friends
- Message

How do you and I serve God in tough times? How do we live faithful in hard places?

1. We take care of our physical health.

Daniel 1:12-16 – Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then let our appearance and the appearance of the youths who eat the king's food be observed by you, and deal with your servants according to what you see.” So he listened to them in this matter, and tested them for ten days. 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. So the steward took away their food and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

1. Rest
2. Diet
3. Examinations
4. Exercise (recreation)
5. Balance

2. We face trials with glorious praise.

Daniel 3:16-18 – Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

1. Faith is **personal**
 2. God is **able**
 3. Peace is **possible**
 4. Trust is **contagious**
 5. Compromise isn't **considered**
3. We practice the **spiritual disciplines**.

Daniel 6:10-13 – *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."*

1. The power of **prayer**
 2. The relevance of **Scripture**
 3. The sacrifice of **giving**
 4. The use of **fasting**
 5. The benefits of **fellowship**
 6. The elimination of **noise**
 7. The joy of **celebration**
4. We desire a **biblical revival**

Daniel 9:3-6 – *Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession, saying, "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules. We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land."*

1. When have we turned our **faces** to the Lord?
2. When have we given up **something** to spend time with the Lord?
3. When have we **worshiped** the Lord in the splendor of His holiness?
4. When have we confessed our **sin** to the Lord?