

DANIEL

Don't Stop Praying!
September 8, 2024 | Daniel 6



1. Daniel's **character** was consistent for decades.
 - A. Daniel was faithful in his relationship with God for more than **80** years.
 - B. Daniel was faithful as he served those who were in authority **over** him.

***Daniel 6:3–4 (NIV84)** ³Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.*
 - C. Daniel was faithful as he served those who were **under** his authority.

***Daniel 6:4–5 (The Living Bible)** ⁴This made the other presidents and governors very jealous, and they began searching for some fault in the way Daniel was handling his affairs so that they could complain to the king about him. But they couldn't find anything to criticize! He was faithful and honest and made no mistakes. ⁵So they concluded, "Our only chance is his religion!"*

 - Daniel was **evenhanded** with those who tried to trap him by deceiving the king.

***Daniel 6:6–7 (NIV84)** ⁶So the administrators and the satraps went as a group to the king and said: "O King Darius, live forever! ⁷The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or man during the next thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into the lions' den.*
 - When a king issued a decree, it could not be **overturned**, even by the king himself.

***Daniel 6:8 (NIV84)** ⁸Now, O king, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the laws of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed."*
2. Daniel would not **compromise** his spiritual beliefs.

***Daniel 6:10 (NIV84)** ¹⁰Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before . . . ¹³Then they said to the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day."*

 - A. Notice that Daniel's prayer was first focused on **thanksgiving**, even when his life was threatened.
3. Daniel sought **counsel** from God when he was in a difficult spot.

***Daniel 6:11 (NIV84)** ¹¹Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help.*

 - A. Prayer was Daniel's **first** response, not his last resort!
4. Daniel was **confident** that God could deliver him.

***Daniel 6:16 (NIV84)** ¹⁶So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"*

 - A. Daniel's confidence in his God created **confidence** in the king who didn't even know God!

***Daniel 6:16 (MSG)** ¹⁶ . . . But he said to Daniel, "Your God, to whom you are so loyal, is going to get you out of this."*
5. Daniel was **consistent** in his service for God.

***Daniel 6:19–20 (NIV84)** ¹⁹At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. ²⁰When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?"*

6. Because of Daniel's heart, God **came** through for him when he needed help.

Daniel 6:21–22 (NIV84) ²¹Daniel answered, "O king, live forever! ²²My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, **because I was found innocent in his sight.** Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king." ²³The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, **because he had trusted in his God.**

A. Daniel said he was not hurt because he was **innocent** in His sight!

B. The king said he was rescued because Daniel **trusted** in his God.

- This is an amazing thing for a pagan king to say. To recognize that Daniel's God had the power to save and because it was He who indeed saved him. It was clear it wasn't Daniel, it was God and King Darius confesses that clearly Daniel's God saved him!

7. Because of Daniel's heart, God got **credit** for being an awesome God.

Daniel 6:26–27 (NIV84) ²⁶"I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. "For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. ²⁷He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."

NEXT STEPS:

1. **Check** your own character & consistency.

2 Corinthians 13:5 (The Living Bible) ⁵Check up on yourselves. Are you really Christians? Do you pass the test? Do you feel Christ's presence and power more and more within you? Or are you just pretending to be Christians when actually you aren't at all?

2. **Create** character by developing your disciplines.

1 Timothy 4:8 (The Living Bible) ⁸Bodily exercise is all right, but spiritual exercise is much more important and is a tonic for all you do. So exercise yourself spiritually, and practice being a better Christian because that will help you not only now in this life, but in the next life too.

3. Make prayer your **first** response, not your last resort.

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (NIV84) ¹⁶Be joyful always; ¹⁷pray continually; ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

4. Deepen your confidence in God by trusting and **obeying**.

Matthew 14:26–29 (The Living Bible) ²⁶They screamed in terror, for they thought he was a ghost. ²⁷But Jesus immediately spoke to them, reassuring them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. ²⁸Then Peter called to him: "Sir, if it is really you, tell me to come over to you, walking on the water." ²⁹"All right," the Lord said, "come along!" So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus.