



THE GOOD NEWS MESSENGER

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The Faithfulness of Daniel

An excerpt from *The Secret of Prayer* by E. E. Byrum

The Jewish captive who was held in bondage in Babylonia, was much blessed of the Lord, and because of his trueness to God, his faithfulness in his labors and concerning that which was entrusted in his care, he found favor in the sight of the king, and became a useful instrument in the hands of the Lord, being known as the prophet Daniel.

There were many very interesting and striking incidents in the life of Daniel, among the first of which, we have mentioned, is that of his refusal to partake of the king's meat and wine, preferring to follow the teachings of his fathers and to be true to God.

The Lord bestowed upon him knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom, and gave him an understanding in all visions and dreams.

The story of Daniel is one told so often that it may almost seem out of place to repeat it here, nevertheless there are such beautiful lessons to be learned that it is deemed necessary to call attention to some of the things concerning his faithfulness, as an inspiration to our faith and trueness to God.

When King Nebuchadnezzar became troubled over his dream, he called the magicians and wise men of the country and said to them, "I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream." They requested the king to tell them the dream, that they might tell him the interpretation, but he said it had gone from him and he could not tell them. He told them that unless they could make known unto him the dream and the interpretation thereof he would have them cut into pieces. The Chaldeans declared there was not a man upon the earth who could make the matter known unto the king. The king became angry and commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed, and sent forth a decree to have them slain, and they sought Daniel and his fellows to put them to death.

Daniel, who had been faithful in his communion with the Lord, besought him in earnest prayer; not only so, but he desired of the king that he should give him time, telling him that he would show the king the interpretation. Daniel then made the matter known to three of his companions and desired that they pray to the Lord concerning this secret. It was an unusual requirement; it was something beyond the power of any person to know of themselves, and only the God of heaven was able to reveal that which was required. Daniel, who had known of the many, wonderful answers to

prayer among the prophets, the kings, and the people of Israel, believed that God was able to unfold to him the mysteries of this dream. He believed that if he and his brethren would go in earnest prayer before the Lord, that he would be enabled to accomplish the desire of his heart.

"Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: and he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: he revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

I thank thee and praise thee, O though God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter." Daniel 2:19-23.

Daniel then requested that he be brought before the king, and the king said unto him, "Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof?"

Daniel answered him, "There is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets." He then told the king his dream and the interpretation thereof.

"The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldst reveal this secret.

Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon."

As time went on, decrees were made against the children of God, but the power of God was manifest in their deliverance.

The king had another dream, which the magicians and astrologers were unable to interpret, and Daniel was again called before the king and was enabled to interpret the dream. All things came to pass according to Daniel's interpretation.

When King Darius sat upon the throne, Daniel became one of the greatest men of the kingdom, and this cause considerable enmity on the part of the presidents and princes, and they sought occasion to have Daniel destroyed. They reasoned among themselves as to how this might be accomplished.

"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." Daniel 6:5.

They were sure that Daniel would be faithful to his God and faithful in prayer, and that he would not bow down to the heathen gods, nor to any man. Therefore, they arranged a scheme by

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Building Blocks of Faith—Part II

Excerpt from "The Secret of a Singing Heart—By: C. W. Naylor

(Continued from the March/April 2005 edition.)

The Psalmist declared that he would not fear though war was made upon him. That was the language of faith. Faith gave him courage. It will give you courage. There is no telling what God will do for those who trust him. What will earthly governments do for their citizens? Here is an illustration: Great Britain sent ten thousand men on a long voyage by sea, then seven hundred miles over sun-scorched trails through the jungles of Africa to fight their way through an armed and brave enemy to rescue one man. That man had been arrested and imprisoned illegally and unjustly. His life was at stake. So Great Britain risked the lives of ten thousand men that he might be saved.

If an earthly government will do this to save one of its citizens, what will the government of heaven do to save one of its citizens who appeals to it? Jesus said twelve legions of angels were ready to assist him and to defend him; and we told that "the angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, to deliver them." "Have faith in God."

The life of faith is the most satisfactory of all lives. In fact it is the only satisfactory life. Matthew Henry has said, "None live so easily, so pleasantly, as those who live by faith."

Children implicitly trust their parents. They believe they will be protected and cared for. They believe their needs will be supplied. They believe they have nothing to fear. They have the confidence expressed by the little boy who was threatened with injury by a larger boy. He said as he looked the other squarely in the face, "No, you won't hurt me. My daddy won't let you." If we have the same confident trust in God we can say, "God will not let you" to the things that are threatened. God will protect us. God will help us.

This is not imagination. It is reality. We should cultivate an attitude of faith toward God, an expectancy that he will take care of us. This brings to us the confident assurance that we have nothing to fear. This in turn brings rest and peace. When we have learned to exercise such faith we have learned *the secret of the singing heart*.

C.B. Larson says, "We should train ourselves to meet everything in that attitude of mind that expects all things to work out right." Why should we not have such an attitude? Why should we not expect such things? We have every reason to be confident of this result. Instead of questioning, fearing, trembling, lest we may fail, let us exercise definite faith in God, and day by day build up ourselves and erect a structure of Christian character and Christian life worthy of the God that helps us. Someone has said, "Do not wonder if you will fail, but think how you are going to succeed." That is the attitude with which we should face life. Success is a product of faith. We should expect to succeed as well as determine to succeed.

Faith produces the building blocks wherewith we build up life. These building blocks of faith are not like the child's blocks with which it builds up a tottery structure which falls at a touch. No, faith furnishes concrete blocks to build an enduring structure. With them we can build a life that the earthquakes of unfavorable circumstances cannot throw down.

Faith manifests itself in or leads to obedi-

ence. If we believe God is King and has the right to rule over us, and if we believe the Bible is his law, it will bring us into an attitude of obedience. It will be our joy to do his will. Such faith will end rebellion. There will be no questioning, but sincere, whole-hearted obedience. It will not be the obedience of fear but the obedience of love. Its language is, "I delight to do thy will, O God."

Faith also manifests itself in submission to God. God's will becomes sweet to us, and this submission to him becomes a great building force in our lives.

This faith also manifests itself in fidelity, loyalty to principles of right. It makes us willing to sacrifice and to serve and makes service fruitful in joyfulness.

Faith results in honoring God by giving credit to his promises. If we shall "set to our seal that God is true" then we can say like the prophet in II Kings 6, "He that is for us is more than they that be against us." Faith has an inborn courage that can face anything. This courage is not the result of assumption. It is founded on solid facts.

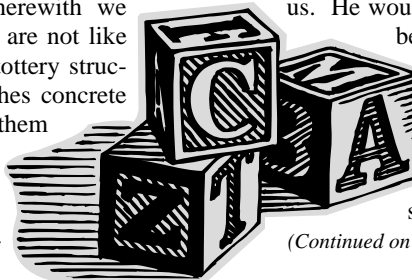
It is not enough to believe in God. We must believe in ourselves as well. Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "Men who should have faith in themselves and faith in their fellows. Doubt either and you are doomed."

Sometimes it is easier to believe in God than to believe in ourselves, but there are abundant reasons why we should have faith in ourselves. If we know we are sincere, earnest, and trying to do God's will, if we know our purpose are right purposes are right purposes and our actions are based on such purposes we have an excellent foundation for faith in ourselves. I do not mean faith in ourselves apart from God, but faith that God and we are partners, that God and we can accomplish what is necessary to accomplish. God does not want us to go through life like shrinking criminals. He wants us to walk out boldly on highways of life, unafraid that he will fail us and unafraid that we shall fail. We need self respect. We need to have confidence in ourselves, in the sincerity of our motives, in our just and right intentions.

Again, we should have faith in God's respect for us. It is not humility to call ourselves "worms of the dust." We are men and women. We are sons of God. We are somebody. We are worthy of God. Jesus said, "They shall walk with me in white for they are worthy." To be sure there is a standpoint from which we should consider ourselves unworthy and unprofitable. That is not an attitude of self-depreciation. It is only recognizing facts. Nevertheless that is only part of the truth. We have wonderful possibilities. We are wonderful beings. God counts us worthy to stand in his presence before his throne. There is therefore no need that we should go through life in sackcloth and ashes bewailing what we are. We should recognize that God respects us and esteems us. He would not have sacrificed his Son for us had this not been true.

We should have faith in our Christian experience. I have seen many downcast, doubting people. When I asked them what was the matter some said, "I don't feel right." When I asked, "Why don't you feel right?" some answered, "I don't know, but I don't feel right."

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The Faithfulness of Daniel

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which they might entrap him, and asked the king to sign a decree “that whosoever shall ask a petition of any god or man for thirty days, save of thee, O King, he shall be cast into the den of lions.”

Having in his mind how great this would make him appear in the sight of the people, and before the world, and not realizing the effect it would have upon Daniel, he signed the decree. Now came the testing time with Daniel, he knowing that such a decree had been signed, and realizing the anxiety of the people, who desired to destroy him, to know whether or not he would be true.

“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 6:10.

“Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.” No doubt, they went with great rejoicing to the king, who had signed a decree which could not be changed. They insisted that Daniel be cast into the den of lions, accordingly. The king was very sorrowful and displeased, and labored until the going down of the sun to deliver him, but there was no way of retracting from his decree. The king commanded that Daniel be cast into the den of lions, but as he was about to be thrown in among those terrible beasts, the king said to Daniel, “Thy God, whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.”



Daniel was cast in among the lions, and a stone laid upon the mouth of the den and sealed with the king's own signet, in order that there be no intervention in the carrying out of their designs. Daniel had lived so faithful in performing his duties and living the life of a righteous man that the king not only had great confidence in him, but confidence in his God.

“Then the king went to his palace and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of musick brought before him: and his sleep went from him.”

Very early the next morning the king hastened to the den of lions, and cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel, saying,

“O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?”

“Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, I have done no hurt.”

The king was exceedingly glad, and had Daniel taken out, and found him to be unharmed.

It is said that when the people who had him cast into the den learned that the lions did not eat Daniel, they reported to the king that it was because the lions had been well fed. The king was so displeased because of their actions and their irreverence to the God of heaven, that he had them cast into the den of lions, but they did not fare so well as Daniel. “The lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den.”

This exemplified the faithful life of Daniel, and the power of his God, and caused the king to make another decree:

“Then King Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you. I

make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and steadfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end. He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.” Dan. 6:25-27.

What the faithfulness of one man could do is worthy of consideration. All the people, nations and languages under the jurisdiction of Darius were to worship the God of Daniel, and all was brought about through faithfulness in prayer in his secret chamber. There is no child of God too weak or unworthy for their influence to reach far beyond their place of prayer, and upon their faithfulness to God depends the salvation of many souls.

In the ninth chapter of Daniel, is recorded a lengthy prayer, which he offered unto the Lord. In answer to this prayer, Daniel said that while he was yet speaking the Lord answered: “I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.”

At one time Daniel spent three weeks in supplication before the Lord, at the end of which time, the Lord gave him to understand that he heard him from the beginning.

“In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks ... Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words.” Daniel 10:2-12.

This would be an encouragement to us, knowing that the Lord hears even from the beginning of our petitions, and that though we may continue with importunity there is certain victory in the end.

Building Blocks of Faith—Part II

(continued from pg 2)

Reader, you may have the same experience. Perhaps *you* don't feel right. Well, what of it? Your emotions are not the test of your spiritual state. Some people feel bad physically when there is very little wrong with them, perhaps nothing of any consequence. Others may feel all right when they are in the grasp of a deadly disease. Just so spiritually. You cannot tell by your emotions what is your relation with God. Your emotions were never intended to be evidences of your spiritual standing. We must stand by faith, learn to exercise faith, learn to live by faith. Judge yourself righteously. Do not let your feelings master your faith. Make your faith master your feelings. As a general thing when you believe right you will feel right but very often faith is based on feelings instead of on realities. It does not matter so much how you feel. How *are* you? This is to be settled by your faith quite apart from your feelings and when you settle it leave your feelings out of the question as evidence.

We should make a practice of building into our lives every day the building blocks of faith; not building blocks of doubts and fears, anxieties and worries. There are plenty of these building blocks of faith to be had. In learning to build with these building blocks of faith we learn the *secret of the singing heart*, of a joyful, happy Christian experience, of certainty for the future and just as much certainty for the present.



Prepare for the Coming Destruction

By: Misti Chancellor



Good for Evil

Taken from "Our Little Folks" August 8, 1909 edition

I was recently asked, "How can you Oklahomans stand to live here and deal with tornadoes?" My answer was that we have a really good warning system, and a place to go when the danger is close by where we can be safe. If we listen to the warning, our lives will be spared, even if we should happen to lose "things." We are trained as very young children about how to prepare for bad weather, and so when the time comes, we know what to do, what to take with us, and where to go. That got me to thinking about how that could apply spiritually.

There are several ways that people react to the warning. Some people don't listen to the warning about bad weather. They just go on about their business, thinking, "Well, it's not going to hit here – it hasn't before." Some people listen to a point – they go close to a cellar, but they stay outside and watch the clouds, thinking, "Well, if it heads my way, I can get in the cellar in plenty of time and be okay." There are those that listen to the warning, and gather their necessary items and go to the cellar, but they don't close the door. Last, there are those that go to the cellar with their necessary items, and close the door behind them.

God has given us a warning about a time that is coming when the earth will be destroyed and we will stand before him. Just like we have a list (whether official or just in our heads) of what we need to take with us to our safe place in a storm, God has given us some things to do to be ready for that coming day. First, we need to know where that safe place is and how to get there. In that coming day, the "safe place" to be in is Christ. To get there, we must have our sins washed away by the blood he shed at Calvary. When bad weather is possible and conditions are such that it could happen at any moment, the national weather service issues a "watch," which means that people should keep an eye on the conditions and be ready to go to their "safe place" at a moments notice. In his word, Christ tells us to "watch and pray, for you know not the hour..." when that great and terrible day of the Lord will come.

People react to the warning of God in various ways. Some think, "Oh, God wouldn't destroy me. He loves everybody and could never do that." So, they ignore the warning and go on about their business. Some people listen to the warning and think, "Well, I will go to church and that way, if the time does come, I'll be close enough that I can hurry up and get ready and still be okay." Some people listen to the warning, and ask God's forgiveness, but they leave an open door where they can go back to the way that they were before if they decide that the warning wasn't real. They listened, and prepared, but they aren't convinced that the danger is imminent. Often times, you'll find these individuals at the top of the stairs looking out at the clouds. They'd really rather be outside, but they stay inside, "just in case." It's hard for them to be there, because they really don't want to be. Last are those that listen, prepare, and are convinced that the warning is real and the danger is imminent. They go into the safe place, and close the door behind them. They aren't looking for a way out – they are looking for a place to be safe from the danger. They are content to stay and listen for the "all clear."

Which way are you handling the warning that God has given? Are you ignoring it – thinking that a loving God wouldn't possibly do what he said he will do? Are you listening, but putting off doing anything about the warning? Have you prepared and gone to the safe place, but don't take the warning seriously and hover at the edge between God's desire and the worldly things you would rather have? Or, have you prepared, gone to the safe place – convinced that the warning is real?

One time David and some of his men were living in a cave. I will tell you why they were living there. King Saul and his army were trying to find David that they might kill him. Saul hated David. But David had done nothing wrong to Saul.

One day Saul came inside the door of the cave in which David and his men were hiding. Saul did not know David was there. Saul lay down and went to sleep. Now, David in looking toward the light could see Saul, while Saul could not see him.

What do you think David did? Did he say, "Now I have a good chance to kill the man who has been trying to take my life"? No; he did not say this. He was a good man. He did not want to do any evil to Saul. He forgave all of Saul's bad deeds. David just cut off a piece of Saul's coat. When Saul left the cave, David went out and called to him. David said: "I cut off a piece of your coat to show you that I could have killed you if I had wanted to."

Saul did many bad things to David, but David would not do bad things to him.

How is it with you, little reader? When some one does bad things to you, do you do bad things back, or do you forgive the person? The Bible says that we should do good for evil. Do you do as the Bible says?

Our God

Taken from "Our Little Folks" August 15, 1909 edition

Did you ever stop to think what a good God we have? He is pure. He never does any wrong thing. He knows all things. He has all power. He can see every place in the world at one time. This great God does not sit upon his throne and look on us with hatred. Oh, no! He is kind to us. He loves us. He is like a dear father to us. He does many good things for us. When we think of how good our God is, we want to be good, too.

Many people in the world today do not know about this God. The gods that they serve are not like him. They are cruel. They do many bad things. They even kill people. Do you wonder that the people are not good when they serve such gods? These gods can not make the people happy. There are really no such gods. The people only think there are. Many stories about the gods were made up long ago. These are told to the children. Poor people! How I wish that they all knew the true God!

I am so glad that I live in a land where I heard of the true God and of what he would do for us. He has made me happy. I am glad God is so good. Are not you?

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Spanish interpretation is available in the services.

Service Times:

Wednesday Prayer Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Young People's Service (Sunday)	4:45 p.m.
Children's Service (Sunday)	5:00 p.m.
Sunday Evening Service	6:00 p.m.

We have literature available for those who would like to study the Word of God in the confines of their home. Let us know if you are interested by contacting us at the above telephone number, address, or website.