

Daniel Chapter 6

Daniel in the Lion's Den

The Medes and Persians defeated the Babylonians and are now setting up their own government.

The Plot Against Daniel

6 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty satraps, to be over the whole kingdom; ² and over these, three governors, of whom Daniel *was* one, that the satraps might give account to them, so that the king would suffer no loss. 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.**”

⁶ So these governors and satraps thronged before the king, and said thus to him: “King Darius, live forever! ⁷ All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counsellors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. ⁸ Now, O king, establish the decree and sign the writing, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter.” ⁹ Therefore King Darius signed the written decree.

Daniel in the Lions' Den

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.

¹¹ Then these men assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God. ¹² And they went before the king, and spoke concerning the king's decree: “Have you not signed a decree that every man who petitions any god or man within thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?”

The king answered and said, “The thing *is* true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter.”

¹³ So they answered and said before the king, “That Daniel, who is one of the captives from Judah, does not show due regard for you, O king, or for the decree that you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day.”

¹⁴ And the king, when he heard *these* words, was greatly displeased with himself, and set *his* heart on Daniel to deliver him; and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him. ¹⁵ Then these men approached the king, and said to the king, “Know, O king, that *it is* the law of the Medes and Persians that no decree or statute which the king establishes may be changed.”

¹⁶ So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast *him* into the den of lions. ***But* the king spoke, saying to Daniel, “Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you.”** ¹⁷ Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signets of his lords, that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed.

Daniel Saved from the Lions

¹⁸ Now the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; and no musicians were brought before him. Also his sleep went from him. ¹⁹ Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions. ²⁰ And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting

voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, “**Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?**”

²¹ Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever! ²² My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you.”

²³ Now the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, **and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God.**

Darius Honors God

²⁴ And the king gave the command, and they brought those men who had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives; and the lions overpowered them, and broke all their bones in pieces before they ever came to the bottom of the den.

²⁵ Then King Darius wrote:

To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth:
Peace be multiplied to you.

²⁶ I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel.

For He is the living God,
And steadfast forever;
His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed,
And His dominion shall endure to the end.

²⁷ He delivers and rescues,
And He works signs and wonders
In heaven and on earth,
Who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

²⁸ So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Daniel 6:1

It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty satraps, to be over the whole kingdom;

Many scholars and historians believe that Darius is another name for Cyrus. Others say he was a man appointed by Cyrus to rule over Babylon. At any rate, here we see his cabinet established.

Daniel 6:2

and over these, three governors, of whom Daniel was one, that the satraps might give account to them, so that the king would suffer no loss.

These one hundred twenty satraps were overseen by three governors who would be accountable to the king. Daniel was chief among them. What would cause Darius to name Daniel prime minister? Verse 3 gives the answer...

Daniel 6:3

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.

Darius realised there was an “excellent spirit” within Daniel. What was this excellent spirit? The Holy Spirit.

Daniel interpreted dreams. He prayed with effectiveness. He understood visions. He moved in prophecy. He experienced the miraculous. In other words, he was a man who was filled with the Spirit. That's what made him so successful all the days of his life.

In 2 Chronicles 16:9, we read that the eyes of the Lord go to and fro throughout the whole earth, looking for a man in whom He might show Himself strong, whose heart is perfect toward Him. Our Father is still looking for men and women in whom He can show Himself strong—as He did with Daniel.

Daniel 6:4-5

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.”

Jealous of Daniel yet unable to find any fault in him they could exploit, his fellow leaders were reduced to attacking his faith. Thus as Peter says, we will suffer for doing good. Expect this to happen to you as well. Satan hasn't changed his tactics one bit.

Daniel 6:6–9

So these governors and satraps thronged before the king, and said thus to him: “King Darius, live forever! ⁷ All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counsellors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. ⁸ Now, O king, establish the decree and sign the writing, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter.” ⁹ Therefore King Darius signed the written decree.

In a political manoeuvre meant to frame Daniel exclusively, Darius' cabinet submitted a law that, under the penalty of death for thirty days, no one could make a request of any God or any man other than Darius himself.

All a lie because Daniel wasn't a part of it.

Daniel's enemies also knew that people could be persuaded to do things they wouldn't normally do if they thought *everyone else* approved of that thing.

“What pretence could they urge for so silly an ordinance? Probably to flatter the ambition of the king, they pretend to make him a god for thirty days; so that the whole empire should make prayer and supplication to him and pay him Divine honours! This was the bait; but their real object was to destroy Daniel.” (Clarke)

The decrees of a Persian king were unchangeable because he was thought to speak for the gods, who could never be wrong and thus never needed to change their minds.

Daniel 6:10(a)

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem...

Why did Daniel face Jerusalem? Because in 1 Kings 8, when Solomon dedicated the temple, he prayed, “If Your people disobey You and are carried away captive as a result—if they face toward

the temple and call upon Your name, hear their prayer and deliver them.” Therefore, as a student of the Word, Daniel understood it was his responsibility to pray for God’s mercy, deliverance, and blessing on behalf of the people.

Daniel 6:10(b) ... he knelt down on his knees...

In prayer, it’s the position of the heart rather than the position of the body that matters. Having said that, however, throughout the Bible—Old Testament and New Testament alike—it seems as though there is something particularly powerful about kneeling in prayer. As Solomon dedicated the temple, we read in 1 Kings 8:22 that he stood before the Lord. But as his prayer continued and the intensity built, he found himself on his knees (1 Kings 8:54). When Elijah prayed, he knelt (1 Kings 18:42). In Acts 20, when Paul was praying for the Ephesian elders that he would see no longer, he knelt.

Daniel 6:10(c) ... three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God...

The law was signed. No prayers were to be offered. No requests were to be made of anyone except Darius. But Daniel did as was his custom. He prayed three times a day as was his practice.

Psalm 55:16-17 - As for me, I will call upon God; and the Lord shall save me. Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.

David, like Daniel, a giant of the faith, cultivated a practice of praying three times a day. That doesn’t mean they didn’t pray other times. But there were three times of prayer that were set aside religiously.

I wonder if this wouldn’t be a good practice for many of us to develop, to quiet ourselves, cloister ourselves in some way and say, “I’m going to start my day with the Lord; I’m going to check in halfway through the day with Him; and, before I hit the pillow at night, I’ll reflect on the day with the One who gave His life for me.”

Daniel 6:10(d) ... as was his custom since early days.

Notice that Daniel didn’t say, “Okay, you signed a law. Now I am going to get down on my knees—even though I never did previously—and I am going to throw open my windows so you can see my radical spirituality.” That was not the heart of Daniel. He wasn’t trying to flex his spiritual muscle. He was simply doing what he had always done. And that’s where the power is. If the source of Daniel’s success was the Holy Spirit, the secret of His success was consistent prayer.

In Matthew 17, as Jesus was on the Mount of Transfiguration with Peter, James, and John, down below a concerned father brought his suicidal son to the disciples. But they were unable to cast out the demon. When Jesus came down and cast out the demon, the disciples said, “How come we couldn’t do that?” Jesus said, “This kind does not come out except by prayer and fasting.”

In other words, the disciples were to develop a lifestyle of prayer and fasting because they never knew when a situation would confront them in which they would need the power of the Lord flowing through their lives. They couldn’t expect to conjure it up on the spot if they had no history or background in it—and neither can we.

We must live lives of prayer and fasting because we don’t know what crisis is going to crop up tomorrow or what challenge is going to arise next week. “I know I should be praying,” you might say, “but I get so tired.”

What about Daniel? He was eighty-five years old—and yet he prayed morning, noon, and night. “But I’m too busy,” you say. Daniel was governor. Excuses just don’t work.

So, a quick summary of this phrase:

Prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days: Daniel didn't let the decree change his actions one way or another. He didn't do more praying or less; he simply continued his excellent prayer life.

i. There was danger in both directions. It would have been compromise to do less or pride to do more. "This was not the act of a person courting martyrdom but the continuation of a faithful ministry in prayer which had characterised his long life." (Walvoord)

ii. What was Daniel's **custom** in prayer?

- He prayed **in his upper room**—this was private prayer, made with no intention to impress others.
- He prayed with **his windows open toward Jerusalem**, remembering the place of sacrifice even when there was no sacrifice.
- He prayed according to Scripture, because in 1 Kings 8 Solomon asked God to give special notice to the prayers of His people when they prayed towards Jerusalem and the temple: *And may You hear the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place* (1 Kings 8:3).
- **He knelt down on his knees**, praying just as Jesus did, (Luke 22:41), as Stephen (Acts 7:60), as Peter (Acts 9:40), as Paul and other leaders in the church (Acts 20:36), and as Luke (Acts 21:5). "Kneeling is a begging posture and we must all come to God as beggars." (Heslop)
- He prayed **three times that day**, knowing that though a little prayer is good, much prayer is far better. We also remember that Daniel was one of three governors over an empire—yet still had time to pray. "That does not tell you how often he prayed, but how often he was in the posture of prayer. Doubtless he prayed 300 times a day if necessary—his heart was always having commerce with the skies; but thrice a day he prayed formally." (Spurgeon)
- He **prayed and gave thanks**, because great prayer is filled with thanksgiving. "Prayer and praise should always go up to heaven arm in arm, like twin angels walking up Jacob's ladder, or like kindred aspirations soaring up to the Most High." (Spurgeon)

Daniel 6:11

Then these men assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

Notice that the attack came when Daniel was in prayer. More than likely you're not going to get attacked when you're on the golf course or the tennis courts. The real attacks of the enemy will come when you're in prayer. Think of Jesus in Matthew 4. He was in the wilderness fasting and praying for forty days and what happened? Satan appeared and put him through an incredible series of temptations. **It's when we're praying that we're most easily distracted and fatigued because the enemy knows that if he can stop us from praying, he's neutralised what God desires to do in and through our lives.** This is why Jesus talks so much about persistence in prayer in the gospels. It's hard work, but possible because God strengthens us to do His will.

1 Corinthians 15:10 AMP - But by the grace (the unmerited favour and blessing) of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not [found to be] for nothing (fruitless and without effect). In fact, I worked harder than all of them [the apostles], though it was not really I, but the grace (the unmerited favour and blessing) of God which was with me.

Philippians 2:12b-13 NLT - ¹² Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. ¹³ For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

All we need to do is ask and make ourselves available, and God will do the rest.

Daniel 6:12–15

¹² And they went before the king, and spoke concerning the king's decree: "Have you not signed a decree that every man who petitions any god or man within thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?"

The king answered and said, "The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter."

¹³ So they answered and said before the king, "That Daniel, who is one of the captives from Judah, does not show due regard for you, O king, or for the decree that you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day."

¹⁴ And the king, when he heard these words, was greatly displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him; and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him. ¹⁵ Then these men approached the king, and said to the king, "Know, O king, that it is the law of the Medes and Persians that no decree or statute which the king establishes may be changed."

Because the government of the Medes and Persians was a constitutional monarchy, once a law was signed by the king, it could not be rescinded.

Daniel 6:16

So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you."

I believe this is not so much a statement of faith made by Darius as it is wishful thinking. Why? Because he had spent all day trying to figure out a way to keep Daniel out of the lions' den.

Whom you serve continually... This was Daniel's testimony. Many of us occasionally display godly character and wisdom before the world, but counter-act the good by then being bad, unwise or worldly. Daniel's testimony was made by *continual* service. This is why we need to learn endurance and perseverance through trials, as Peter talks about.

Daniel 6:17–20

¹⁷ Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signets of his lords, that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed. ¹⁸ Now the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; and no musicians were brought before him. Also his sleep went from him. ¹⁹ Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions. ²⁰ And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?"

When asked if God was able to deliver me, if I were Daniel, at this point I would have said, "Yes! Get me out of here immediately!" Not Daniel. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego had been content to remain in the furnace until they were ordered out. As we'll see, Daniel was content to preach a mini-sermon from the lions' den.

Daniel 6:21-22

²¹ Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! ²² My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you."

Surrounded by lions, Daniel chats with the king. Lions such as these were bred to be particularly ferocious and were kept in a state of near starvation. But these lions were quiet. They didn't bother Daniel a bit. Who was this angel who was sent? The word "angel" simply means "messenger." John 1:1 identifies Jesus as "the Word," or "the message." Therefore, I believe this angel was the same angel who walked in the fire with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego in chapter 3. In other words, it was Jesus Himself.

Daniel 6:23

Now the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God.

Because he believed in his God: Daniel was preserved through *faith*. Though his cause was righteous and he was unjustly accused, those things alone did not protect him before the lions. Daniel needed a living, abiding faith in God, even in the most difficult circumstances.

- i. "Though they were savage and hunger-starved, yet Daniel was kept from the paws and jaws of these many fierce and fell lions by the power of God through faith." (Trapp)
- ii. There is an instructive order here. The power of God sent an angel to protect Daniel in response to a prayer of faith coming from a consistent, abiding walk.
- iii. Because of this faith, Daniel is recognised in Hebrews 11:33 as one who by faith *stopped the mouths of lions*.

Daniel 6:24

And the king gave the command, and they brought those men who had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives; and the lions overpowered them, and broke all their bones in pieces before they ever came to the bottom of the den.

That the wives and children of Daniel's accusers were tossed into the lions' den was not the Lord's demand but was according to the custom of the Medes and Persians. Nonetheless, whenever we sin, the sad truth of the matter is that sin always affects those who are closest to us. These men sinned, and their wives and kids paid the price along with them.

Daniel 6:25–27

²⁵ Then King Darius wrote: To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you.

²⁶ I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God, And steadfast forever; His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, And His dominion shall endure to the end.

²⁷ He delivers and rescues, And He works signs and wonders In heaven and on earth, Who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

Overflowing with praise to the Lord and an eternal perspective, the decree of Darius sounds like it could have been penned by the apostle Paul.

Daniel 6:28

So Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

No less real than the lions that surrounded Daniel, Peter tells us that Satan is a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8). He has two basic ways to destroy and devour us: he gets us involved in sin and then accuses us concerning our sin.

Revelation 12:10b - ...for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Satan whispers in our ear constantly. It's not a loud roar, but a soft purr: "You're a sinnerrr," he whispers. "You have no right to pray to God. You'll never be used by Him." If Satan and his demons can't devour you through sin, they'll make constant accusations against you until you're ready to give up and walk away from the Lord. But, because you and I found ourselves damned because of sin and doomed to spend eternity in the lion's den of hell, God sent His Son—the ultimate Messenger—to come down to this earth, to stand with us, to die for us, and to go to hell in our place. Every sin we've ever done, are doing, or will do has been paid by Jesus. Therefore, to overcome Satan's roaring accusations, we plead His blood.

Revelation 12:11 - And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

Jon Courson said; Satan is a roaring lion to be sure—but he got tangled up in a catfight with the Lion of the tribe of Judah and he lost.

When it all comes down to it, this week with Daniel chapter 6 is all about separation. Daniel lived a separated life, a life devoted to God, and it showed. Being faithful to God means we are also faithful in every other area of our lives.

Here is my new years introspection for you...

Amir Tsarfati weekly roundup...

I strongly feel that the word **separation** is for 2020. Are we separated from the ways of this evil world? Are we separated from the religious and Pharisaic spirit of the church? Are we separated from our own desire to make a name for ourselves? Are we ready for the great separation of the church from this world - The rapture? This is the year of separation!

Ephesians 5:25-33 - ²⁵ **Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,** ²⁶ **that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,** ²⁷ **that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.** ²⁸ **So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.** ²⁹ **For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.** ³⁰ **For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.** ³¹ **"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."** ³² **This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.** ³³ **Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.**

As I was thinking about this, the thought occurred to me that, in the spiritual, to be separated from one thing means to be joined to something else. For example, when two people marry, they separate from their parents so they can be joined to each other. Separation from the world means that we are joined to Christ. How do we know that we are practically joined to Christ or abiding in Christ? We will be feeding on Him, reading His word, His love letter to us, and **making** the time to pray to Him and to listen for His still small voice where there is no hustle and bustle, no distractions. This then leads to obedience and a life of victory, and a life marked by contentment, peace, love and joy. It's not what we know that's most important, but rather who we know. I'm convinced that there are many in the church who know a lot but love little. This is what I think Amir

Tsarfaty means when he says, "Are we separated from the religious and Pharisaic spirit of the church?"

So, I think that it's good that we take the time to ask ourselves these important questions: Am I separated from the ways of this evil world? Am I separated from the religious and Pharisaic spirit of the church? Am I separated from our own desire to make a name for ourselves? I think the important question is, "How do we know if we are?"

Most Christians would say that they are separated from the world, the religious and Pharisaic spirit of the church and their own reputation or desire, to be in control of their lives. But the real evidence is not necessarily what I don't do, but rather what I do do, because much of the world's ways are attitudes of the heart which are internal and therefore hidden.

If reading the bible isn't important to me, then what is?

If praying and listening to God is not important to me, then what is?

Obviously if I not reading and praying very much, then I'm not as separated from those other things as I thought I might have been.

If it was necessary for Jesus to get up early and spend time with the Father, then how much more do I need to if I am going to experience intimacy with the Father.

I have just read through Hebrews, and the phrase "draw near" comes up a few times. You will find it in Peter as well. Drawing near means that we make deliberate choices to put God first, with the obvious affect that those other things or idols are done away with or become less important and no longer control us. Trying to be holy or righteous by eliminating sins and trying to control bad attitudes is futile and will only lead to pride and/or despair. You can't fight the flesh with the flesh.

Hebrews 10:19-23 - ¹⁹ And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. ²⁰ By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. ²¹ And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house, ²² **let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him.** For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.

Going into the presence of God speaks of renewed relationship. In the garden, Adam and Eve were cast out from the presence of God. Their sin had separated them from God. But now, because of Jesus substitutionary death on the cross, that relationship has been restored. And what do we have to do? Walk and talk with God just like Adam and Eve once did and enjoy the relationship once more. It's so simple and so beautiful.

An application of this is that if we are joined to our wives, biblically, spiritually, then we will be praying for them, and praying and reading the Bible together with them if they are willing. How else is spiritual unity possible? And if there is no spiritual unity, then there is no real unity in the marriage. At some level there will be disfunction in the marriage. Most couples would say that they have spiritual unity. But, I can ask a similar question to before: Do I love my wife or husband enough to make the time to pray with them and read the bible with them on a regular basis? If not, then what is more important?

I believe that, as husbands and wives, spiritual unity will be a fruit of our individual unity or abiding in Christ. If we are not making the time to abide in Christ individually, then we will have nothing to give our spouse and will be just going through the motions. The same is true for every part of our lives.

Daniel didn't just know about God, have his doctrines all right, and his prophecy up to date. Rather, everything he did was based on His relationship with God, and every other part of His life was controlled and influenced by God. He spent much time talking to God and studying His Word. His life was based on the Rock, on Christ. As a result, he was secure in his life. I would like to finish on the verse that we started the book of Daniel with, what I consider to be the ultimate secret or reason for Daniel's success in the kingdom of God.

Daniel 6:10 - 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.

Daniel had made the choice to draw near to God, and the resulting peace, love, joy and contentment he found in that divine relationship, freed him from the allure of the world and any preoccupation with self. I believe that Daniel would agree with the words of Paul in:

Philippians 3:6-11

⁶ I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. **And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.**

⁷ **I once thought these things were valuable**, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. ⁸ **Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.** For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ ⁹ and become one with him. **I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law (*self-effort*); rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ.** For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, ¹¹ so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!

If you want to know or experience the power of the resurrection in your life on a day to day basis, then you need to experience a resurrection. To experience a resurrection you first need to die. Positionally, we are dead to the world and alive to Christ, but practically, this is my choice that I need to make each day.

Luke 9:23-24 - ²³ Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross **daily**, and follow me. ²⁴ If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.

The cross is a picture of death. We need to die daily. Often, this means accepting and embracing the suffering that comes our way as being from God for our good.

So, if there is no dying, then there will be no living. If I'm not choosing to abide, then I'm not abiding. All God wanted from Adam and Eve in the garden was their trust and their time so they could communicate and experience divine love. Nothing has changed. Will you trust God? Are you willing to give up all for Him as you make time for Him?