

HILLTOP HOUSE OF PRAYER - SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

MESSENGRERS OF REFORMATION PART 3 – DANIEL’S UNSHAKEABLE CONSECRATION TO GOD

Messengers of Reformation - Daniel

I. A CHILDREN’S REVIVAL - REVIEW

- A. Recently, I spoke about a download God began to give me very early in the morning of 1/22 about what was in His heart regarding children and youth. As I dictated it on my phone in notes, He began to say: ***“Focus on messages of young people God used in the Bible; Joseph, Josiah, King David, Jeremiah, Daniel, etc. You are to raise up an army of children and youth who are passionate followers of Jesus and who are reformers, history makers, trend setters – people who set the standard for the next generation. Then He said: “And mother’s and father’s of the coming awakening [spiritual revolution] of righteousness of God-fearing youth!” (Acts 2:17-20)***

II. DANIEL – CHOSEN TO BE GOD’S SERVANT

- A. Daniel was part of a group of youths who were taken into Babylonian exile in 605 BC. Daniel was around 14 years of age when he was taken away from his home and forcibly marched into a strange land where he was subjected to strong indoctrination and surrounded by powerful and jealous enemies (Dan. 1:1-4).

“In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. ²And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god. ³Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king’s descendants and some of the nobles, ‘young men in whom there was no blemish, but **good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king’s palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans.**”

“The first of all commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment.’” (Mark 12:29-30, Deu. 6:4-5)

- B. As a youth, Daniel understood the importance of being wholly devoted to God in a world of compromise. It’s easy to serve God when you are living around other believers. It gets much more difficult when you are surrounded by an ungodly system. *Godliness and spirituality never depends on things being easy. You have to choose to serve God regardless of what anyone else does. You have to make a quality decision in your heart!*

III. DANIEL WAS DETERMINED TO SERVE GOD

- A. As a young person, Daniel resolved in His heart that He was going to be loyal to God and serve Him whole-heartedly. He, along with his 3 friends, was given the opportunity to live “the good life” with all of the king’s delicacies, but he chose to stay devoted to God instead.
- B. But Daniel ***“purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank, therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself”(Dan. 1:8).***

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- C. God will sometimes place you in situations where your dedication to God will be tested. Living for Jesus without compromise is the most valuable thing you can do. Are you willing to do the right thing before God if everyone else is against you? What if it costs you your job or your reputation? What if you lose your life? Those were issues young Daniel faced!
- D. God gave Daniel and his friends great favor and spiritual understanding. ***“As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams” (Dan. 1:17)***
- E. Like the Holy Spirit resting on Jesus as mentioned in Isaiah 11, so it rested on Daniel and his friends. We can experience the same anointing today in our daily lives.

“The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.” (Isa. 11:2)

“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power towards us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power” (Eph. 1:17-19)

IV. THE TEST OF SERVING OTHER GODS

- A. There are always those who will try to trap you in your commitment to serve Jesus. Daniel was told to worship the image of gold, a statue that was about 90’ tall, and if he didn’t, he and his friends would be thrown into a fiery furnace. (Dan. 3:1-18).
- B. But Daniel knew it would be wrong to worship any other God but Yahweh, so they told the king and his men, ***“O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up” (Dan. 3:16-18)***. Under no circumstance would Daniel compromise His faith, even with the threat of death. Can you imagine what would happen if Christian young people would have that level of boldness when they are challenged for their faith on the college campuses of America!

V. THE TEST OF NOT PRAYING TO GOD

- A. Daniel was told he was not allowed to pray to God and if he did, he would be thrown into the lion’s den. (Dan. 6:1-23). No weakness or loophole in his behavior could be found, so they focused on using his strengths against him. ***“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. (Dan. 6:10)***. Notice the king’s comment: ***“Has your God whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?”***
- B. God rewards whole-hearted devotion. The late Leonard Ravenhill once said, ***The man who kneels in prayer has some standing before the Lord!”***