

Richmond Hill Baptist Church

January 30, 2011

The Daniel Fast - Part 4: Believing that God can Help (Daniel 6, Hebrews 11)

Prelude & Prayer Time

1st Welcome: Welcome – it's gonna be a great day celebrating all that God has done through our Daniel Fast. Please stand as we continue in our prayer and praise.

Call to Worship: *All Hail the Power of Jesus Name*

2nd Welcome: Thanks for coming to Richmond Hill today. If you are a guest please fill out a Connect Card and place it in the offering plate when it comes by. This card is not only for newcomers it's for everyone: prayer, information, service, baptism, membership, salvation. Guests – we are glad that you are here. Let's greet one another.

Sing: *Days of Elijah, Our God Reigns, Fortress, Blessed Assurance*

Children's Corner: Daniel Video

Announcements:

1. 4th Annual Valentines Brunch on Saturday, February the 12th at 9:30am.
Showcase Of Musical Talent, Cost \$8:00. Childcare will be available
Buy tickets today!
2. Daniel Fast will culminate in Praise & Prayer Night, Sunday, January 30th, 6:30 pm

Offering: Identify one area you need help with and ask God to help you.

Offertory: *Reach out to Jesus*

Sermon: **Daniel Fast Part 4: Believing that God can Help (Daniel 6, Hebrews 11)**

I want to congratulate everyone who made a commitment during the Daniel Fast and kept it.

Today we are going to take a quick fitness test and IQ test. Daniel 1: Healthier & Smarter.

I think it will be encouraging if we do Simple Survey:

1. Please stand up if this was your first fast?
2. Please stand up if you participated in this fast in some form or fashion?

Our goal has been to have a fresh focus on God, to renew our walk with Him and seek first His Kingdom.

I believe that if you participated then, you are a “healthier you” and hopefully a “holier you.”

Tonight we will gather here at 6:30 to complete our fast with a time of praise and prayer.

Last Sunday we talked about being a person of prayer. This morning we are going to focus on the topic: **Believing that God can Help.**

Do you really believe that God can help, heal, lead, guide, provide, protect, & save?

Do you trust in God and have faith in Him?

I believe there is an inextricable relationship between prayer and faith. Prayer coupled with faith is powerful. Jesus said if you have the faith of a mustard you can accomplish great things.

Let's see what we can learn from Daniel about prayer combined with faith and trust.

Our text today comes from Daniel 6. It is story of Daniel and Lion's Den. Thanks Alyssa for the video recap of this amazing event. Some of you know the story quite well and could retell the highpoints from memory.

The Story of Daniel and the Lions Den:

1. The king was Darius the Mede
2. Daniel was Jewish Exile who had risen to a place of leadership just under the king.
3. There were 2 other Administrators and 120 Satraps (governor) who were jealous.
4. They tried to discredit him but found him to be a person of integrity.
5. They knew Daniel was a Godly man and they put a decree into law that said you could not pray to any god or man for 30 days except to King Darius.
6. Daniel went to pray in his home like he always did.
7. He was caught praying.
8. The king was distraught but had to abide by the law of the Medes and Persians.
9. Daniel was thrown into the Lions Den.
10. The king stayed up all night worrying for Daniel.
11. God sent an angel to protect Daniel.
12. Early in the morning the king came looking for Daniel and found him unharmed because he trusted in God. He believed that his God would help him.
13. The king had the men who falsely accused Daniel and their families thrown into the den.
14. The king issued another edict that everyone on the kingdom should fear and reverence the God of Daniel.

Daniel and the Lions Den! Within this amazing story are some very significant details that are often overlooked. Let's see what we can learn from Daniel.

Three Choices that will help you be Trustworthy and more Trusting

1. Choosing Conviction over Compromise (It all begin with his diet...Daniel 1)

Daniel was distinguished

v. 3: *Now 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.*

Daniel was trustworthy

v. 4: *At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.*

Daniel was not corrupt

Daniel was not negligent

They could not find any dirt on Daniel. His facebook was clean, his relationships were pure. His dealings were above the board. His heart was right. He had nothing to hide.

I challenge you to not compromise your faith in the workplace, at school, or in your homes. You are only fooling yourself if think that you are getting ahead by cheating and deceiving others. Choose to do the right thing.

2. Choosing Godliness over Worldliness

Daniel was Godly

v. 5: *Finally these men said, "We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God."*

Daniel was set up

Daniel was faithful

v. 10: *Now 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.*

Journey of Prayer: Desperation, Discipline, Desire
Place, Posture, and Time for Prayer.

Daniel was thankful

I hope you will join us tonight as express our thanks and praise and prayer to God.

The world will offer you lots of enticing choices and options. I hope you will choose God and the things he wants for you.

3. Choosing Faith over Fear

Daniel was God's servant

vs. 16 & 20: *When 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?"*

Daniel was innocent

v. 21: *Daniel answered, "O king, live forever! ²² My 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."*

Daniel was trusting

v. 23: *The 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.*

Some of you like signing the song: *He is able to deliver thee.* Daniel believed He was able to deliver me. He saw his friends delivered from the fiery furnace. Do you remember what they said:

Daniel 3:16-18: *Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. ¹⁸ But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."*

Daniel was vindicated

Daniel was honoured and God was praised.

vs. 25-28: *Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations and men of every language throughout the land: "May you prosper greatly! 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 dominion will never end. ²⁷ He 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.”²⁸ So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Lots of people walk in fear. I hope you will choose faith over fear.

Three Choices that will help you be Trustworthy and more Trusting

1. Choosing Conviction over Compromise
2. Choosing Godliness over Worldliness
3. Choosing Faith over Fear

Hebrews 11:6:

Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

I think it's pretty cool that Daniel is included in the Hall of Faith list. His name is not mentioned, however, we all know who shut the mouths of lions.

Hebrews 11:32-33: *And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions,*

Daniel was a great person of faith. He believed that God could help him. His prayer life was coupled with a great trust in God and he was found trustworthy before the king and more importantly before the Lord.

Most of us will never face a lion like Daniel, however, I would remind you that there is a Lion out there that would do nothing better than to see you devoured.

1 Peter 5:8:

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

When your day of difficulty comes: Stand firm in your faith, believing that God can help.

Response: *Wonderful, Merciful Saviour*

First Step: is Salvation

Postlude: *He Reigns*

The Daniel Fast

Start the New Year with a Fresh Focus on God

Part 1: Background (Daniel 1, 10) January 9

Part 2: Becoming Highly Esteemed (Daniel 10) January 16

Part 3: Being a Person of Prayer (Daniel 9) January 23

Part 4: Believing that God can Help (Daniel 6, Hebrews 11) January 30

Part 5: Being Grateful - Prayer and Praise Service (Daniel 2) January 30, 6:30 pm

Part 4: Believing that God can Help (Daniel 6)

Three Choices that will help you be Trustworthy and more Trusting

1. Choosing Conviction over Compromise

Daniel was distinguished

Daniel was trustworthy

Daniel was not corrupt

Daniel was not negligent

2. Choosing Godliness over Worldliness

Daniel was Godly

Daniel was set up

Daniel was faithful

Daniel was thankful

3. Choosing Faith over Fear

Daniel was God's servant

Daniel was innocent

Daniel was trusting

Daniel was vindicated

Daniel was honoured and God was praised.

Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Hebrews 11:6