

STAND – Week 3

Stand Strong

Daniel 6

Covenant Loyalty Under Pressure

You don't stand to prove who you are. You stand because you already know who you belong to.

Daniel's Character

Darius the Mede divided the kingdom into 120 provinces and appointed high officers to rule over them. The king also chose Daniel and two others as administrators to supervise the officers and protect the king's interests. Daniel soon proved himself more capable than all the other administrators and high officers, and the king planned to place him over the entire empire.

—Daniel 6:1–3

Even in his eighties, Daniel continued to serve faithfully and with excellence.

Daniel's Reputation

The administrators and officers searched for some fault in Daniel's work but could find nothing to criticize or

condemn. He was faithful, always responsible, and completely trustworthy. They concluded that the only way to accuse Daniel would be in connection with the law of his God.

—Daniel 6:4–5

Daniel's life was marked by faithfulness, responsibility, and trustworthiness.

Excellence often attracts jealousy.

When God Raises Us Up, Expect People to Tear Us Down

Sometimes opposition comes from others. Sometimes it comes from our own insecurities.

Daniel did not worship God to provoke conflict. Daniel worshiped God because he belonged to Him.

The Plot Against Daniel

The administrators and officers persuaded King Darius to establish a law that for thirty days anyone who prayed to anyone other than “So the administrators and high officers went to the king and said, “Long live King Darius! We are all in agreement—we administrators, officials, high officers, advisers, and governors—that the king should make a law that will be strictly enforced. Give orders that for the next thirty days any person who prays to anyone,

divine or human—except to you, Your Majesty—will be thrown into the den of lions. And now, Your Majesty, issue and sign this law so it cannot be changed, an official law of the Medes and Persians that cannot be revoked.” So King Darius signed the law.

—*Daniel 6:6–9*

King Darius signed the law, and the trap was set.

Daniel’s Response

But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God.

—*Daniel 6:10*

Daniel simply continued doing what he had done his entire life.

Our first response to problems should never be panic—but prayer.

Gratitude in Every Situation

Daniel continued to give thanks to God even when the situation meant possible danger.

Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.

—James 1:17

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

—Romans 8:28

Stand On Our Knees

Kneeling in prayer is what gives us the strength to stand. Daniel's strength came from a lifetime of prayer, worship, and trust in God.

Deliverance

My God sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, for I have been found innocent in his sight. And I have not wronged you, Your Majesty." The king was overjoyed and ordered that Daniel be lifted from the den. Not a scratch was found on him, for he had trusted in his God.

—Daniel 6:22–23

Daniel entered the lion's den because of his unwavering commitment to God. Daniel was unharmed because he trusted in God.

Responding to Enemies

Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the Lord. Instead, "If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads." Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

—Romans 12:17–21

As surely as I live, says the Sovereign Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of wicked people. I only want them to turn from their wicked ways so they can live. Turn! Turn from your wickedness, O people of Israel! Why should you die?

—Ezekiel 33:11

Don't rejoice when your enemies fall; don't be happy when they stumble.

—Proverbs 24:17

When We Do What's Right, We Can Always Trust God
With the Results

We cannot control outcomes, but we can choose
obedience.

Understanding the Lion's Den

The lion's den is not our situation.

The lion's den is not our circumstances.

The lion's den is how we handle our situation, how we approach our circumstances, and how we respond in faith.

We do not worship God to get out of the lion's den. We worship God because we belong to Him.

Standing Strong

We stand strong by:

- Kneeling in prayer
- Abiding in Christ
- Trusting God with the results
- Remaining faithful in every circumstance

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When pressure rises and faith is tested, strength is not found in our own power but in faithful devotion to God.

BIG IDEA

Standing strong begins on our knees—remaining faithful to God and trusting Him with the results.

SCRIPTURE PATH

- Daniel 6:1-3** → **Faithfulness Over Time Builds Character**
Even in his eighties Daniel continued to serve with *excellence* and integrity. A lifetime of faithfulness prepared him to stand strong when pressure came.
Daniel 6:4-5
- Daniel 6:4-5** → **Excellence Often Attracts Opposition**
Daniel's enemies could find no corruption in him. His only "fault" was his unwavering devotion to God.
Daniel 6:10
- Daniel 6:10** → **Prayer Is the Source of Strength**
When the decree was signed, Daniel did what he had always done—he knelt and prayed.
Daniel 6:22-23
- Romans 12:17-21** → **God Is Faithful in the Lion's Den**
God sent His angel to shut the lions' mouths. Daniel was unharmed because he trusted in his his God.
Romans 12:17-21

WORD STUDY

Faithfulness

Greek: *pistis*

To trust completely and remain loyal to God regardless of circumstances.

Biblical faithfulness means continuing to trust and obey God even when outcomes are uncertain.

GROUP DISCUSSION

- ▶ Daniel's strength came from a lifetime of prayer. What habits help build spiritual strength over time?
- ▶ Daniel's strength came from a lifetime of prayer. What habits help build spiritual strength over time?
- ▶ Why is it sometimes difficult to trust God with the results of your obedience?
- ▶ How can believers respond to opposition or criticism in a way that reflects Christ?

We don't worship God to escape the lion's den.
We worship God because we belong to Him.
Standing strong begins on our knees.

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Standing strong means choosing obedience even when *pressure rises*.
When you do what is right, you can trust God with the results.

5 DAY READING PLAN



Day 1 – Daniel 6:1-9

Daniel is promoted, but jealousy begins to grow against him.



Day 2 – Daniel 6:10-23

Daniel refuses to stop praying and is thrown into the lions' den.



Day 3 – Daniel 6:24-28

God rescues Daniel and His power is recognized throughout the king.



Day 4 – Philippians 4:6-7

Prayer replaces anxiety and brings the peace of God.



Day 5 – 1 John 5:14-15

Confidence in prayer comes from trusting God's will.

WORD STUDY

◆ Stand Strong – “Steko”

- To stand firm
- To remain unmoved
- To stay faithful under pressure

PERSONAL REFLECTION

- Where are you feeling pressure to compromise your faith?
- What habits strengthen your ability to stand strong?
- How can prayer help you remain faithful in difficult moments?

STANDING STRONG

Pressure reveals conviction.

Daniel could have compromised quietly. Instead, he continued praying openly to God.

KEY STATEMENTS

- When you do what is right, trust God with the results.
- Conviction is revealed when pressure rises.

BIBLICAL CONTEXT

Daniel served under King Darius and gained favor because of his integrity.

Jealous officials created a law that made prayer to anyone except the king illegal.

Daniel continued his daily prayers anyway.

Because of this, he was thrown into a den of lions.

God protected Daniel and proved His power before the entire kingdom.

FINAL THOUGHT

When pressure rises, **stand strong** in faith and trust God with *the outcome*.