



The Courage to Persevere like Daniel

Adapted from "Courage" series by Dennis Marquardt

The biggest challenge for most people is not knowing right from wrong, but having the courage to do what is right. It is not easy doing what is right, especially when other people pressure us to do what is wrong. However, the sweet reward of doing what is right can have powerful effects in our own life and in the lives of others.

The old virtue of perseverance to do what is right is a needed quality in the Christian's life today. There is so much pressure to give in to the world's standards, to do what is wrong, that we must have courage to persevere in doing what is right. The Bible teaches us to persevere in doing right no matter pressures come against us. The rewards for those who do are many, God's name is honored and many times we are as well!

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COURAGE

C1: Describe a time in your life when you have felt pressured to do something other than what God's Word says is right. Did you find the courage to do what was right? How or why not?

C2: Read and answer the following.

Daniel 6:1–5 (ESV) It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps, to be throughout the whole kingdom; and over them three high officials, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss. Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. Then the high officials and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him. Then these men said, "We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God."

Daniel 6:10 (ESV) When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.

- From these verses, write out six things that were said about Daniel's life.
- On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being very well and 4 being not very well, rate how well these things can be said about your life. Write out a plan to improve.

C3: Daniel's character was consistent as a godly man. What does being a godly man mean to you in today's world?

C4: Daniel was about eighty years old when he was put into the lion's den. What does that speak to you about establishing godly practices for a lifetime and not just short term? What godly practices do you have in place in your life today?

STRENGTH

S1: Read **Daniel 6 (ESV)** and answer the following.

- When the king was looking for a man to rule his kingdom, Daniel had the qualities the king was looking for. Name some of the qualities Daniel's life exhibited. How well are those qualities displayed in your life? How can you improve in displaying of those qualities?
- The king held Daniel in high regards due to his courage to persevere. Can the same be spoken of your public walk with Christ? Why or why not?
- How would you describe Daniel's walk with God, focusing on finding the courage to persevere despite what the world is saying is right, to another man?

S2: Daniel had practices that were non-negotiable. Read or listen to **Daniel 6** in a different translation. Write down at least four of his non-negotiable practices.

- On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being very well and 4 being not very well, rate yourself on how well you practice the non-negotiable trait of:
 - Honesty
 - Hard Work
 - Prayer
 - Holy Lifestyle
- Write out a plan to improve in each of these non-negotiable practices.

S3: Sit down in a quiet place and read **Daniel 6 (ESV)** again. For fifteen-thirty minutes put yourself in the story. How does your life compare to Daniel's life? What needs to change in your life?

S4: Daniel could have used excuses in not persevering for God. He could have said any of the following:

- Well, it is just for thirty days, what would it hurt for that short period of time to not pray openly?
- I have to think of how much good I've done to date. Is it really worth losing all that influence for just a thirty-day period of time?
- God put me here, and after all we are supposed to obey the laws of the land.
- I'm sure God will understand if I don't pray publicly. I'll just do it quietly.
- If I pray then I won't be able to help others.

S5: Have you ever used an excuse to not persevere for God? Why or why not?

ENDURANCE

E1: Read **Daniel 6 (ESV)** and in three other translations. Answer the following.

- Daniel found strength and courage in God to persevere. Describe how the Holy Spirit can give you the courage and strength to persevere and be a lifelong man of God?
- Because of Daniel's courage to persevere, the king learned of the greatness of God and God was proclaimed throughout the land. What is your plan to persevere so that God can be proclaimed throughout your sphere of influence?

E2: How do you find the courage to endure when it comes to persevering for the things of Christ in an ungodly world? Describe a time in your life when you underestimated God's power.

E3: Sit down with your children or three young men and discuss the importance of establishing biblical principles in their life like Daniel regarding honesty, hard work, prayer life, and a holy lifestyle despite what the world says is right. What did you glean from this conversation?