

STANDING STRONG FOR GOD

I. How Did Daniel Keep Getting Promoted?

1. He got the job done by remaining a **LEARNER**.

"Daniel soon proved himself more capable than all the other administrators and high officers. Because of Daniel's great ability, the king made plans to place him over the entire empire." Daniel 6:3 (NLT)

"The Peter Principle", coined by Dr. Laurence Peter in 1969
-People tend to be promoted to their level of incompetence.

2. "Daniel was such a competent person of character that it was hard to find anything to say **AGAINST HIM**.

*"Then the other administrators and high officers began searching for some fault in the way Daniel was handling government affairs, but they **couldn't find anything to criticize or condemn**. He was faithful, always responsible, and completely trustworthy." Daniel 6:4 (NLT)*

3. His **COMMITMENT TO GOD** made him stand out.

"So they concluded, 'Our only chance of finding grounds for accusing Daniel will be in connection with the rules of his religion.'" Daniel 6:5 (NLT)

II. Q: What Was the Source of Daniels Strength?

A: His Relationship with God.

*"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. Then the officials went together to Daniel's house and found him praying and **asking for God's help**." Daniel 6:10-11 (NLT)*

III. The Rest of the Story

- Daniel is arrested and thrown in lion's den. (Daniel 6:16)
- The next morning, Daniel is found alive. (Daniel 6:21)
- King Darius is furious at being tricked and orders Daniels accusers thrown into lion's den. (Daniel 6:24)
- Accusers get different result than Daniel. (Daniel 6:24)
- King Darius is so inspired that he writes a proclamation to the whole Empire to worship God. (Daniel 6:25)

IV. Lessons to Apply

1. Standing for God strengthens my "**FAITH MUSCLES**".

*"So never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord. And don't be ashamed of me, either, even though I'm in prison for Him. With the **strength God gives you**, be ready to suffer with me for the sake of the Good News." 2 Timothy 1:8 (NLT)*

2. If you **PLAY IT SAFE**, you'll never see **MIRACLES** in your life.

*"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." Daniel 6:22 (NLT)*

3. When you stand for God, it helps **OTHER BELIEVERS** stand for God.

"And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear." Philippians 1:14 (NIV)

4. When you stand for God, it's a powerful witness to **UNBELIEVERS**.

"When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus." Acts 4:13 (NIV)

5. When you stand for God, even when it's tough, you're in **GOOD COMPANY** and it **MAKES GOD SMILE**.

*"God blesses you when people **mock** you and **persecute** you and **lie** about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way." Matthew 5:11-12 (NLT)*