



## Defiant Praise & Defiant Prayer

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**Defiant:** to openly resist or defy

### **DEFIANT PRAISE**

Praise (Hebrew):

1. *yadah*- to praise, give thanks, or confess
2. *zamar*- sing praise
3. *halal* (the root of *hallelujah*)- to praise, honor, or commend

**Psalm 150:6** Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

### **2 Samuel 6**

King David tried to bring the Ark of the Lord with Him to Jerusalem.

#### **The Ark of the Lord**

- The Ark was symbolized the presence of God amongst His people.
- It was a box of wood, overlaid with gold, with 4 rings (2 on each corner), two staves, and a lid with 2 cherubim on it.

Inside the Ark **Hebrews 9:3-4**

- 2 stone tables (10 Commandments): representing the covenant between God and Israel
- A pot of manna: representing the bread of God from heaven, which was God's provision
- Aaron's rod that budded: representing God's choice of priesthood

### **2 Samuel 6:6-7**

King David tried to bring the Ark of the Lord with him to Jerusalem. It was mishandled and a man was killed. David decided to leave the ark with Obed-Edom. Because of this, the house of Obed-Edom is blessed. David wants that for Israel, so he sends for it and this time, they move it the right way, according to the way God commanded.

**2 Samuel 6:14-16** Wearing a linen ephod, David was dancing before the Lord with all his might, while he and all Israel were bringing up the ark of the Lord with shouts and the sound of trumpets. As the ark of the Lord was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched from a window. And when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord, she despised him in her heart.

David is finally bringing the Ark of the Lord, **the presence of God**, back to Jerusalem.

- He is leading a celebration into the city dancing before the Lord.
- David was “wearing a linen ephod,” which was what priests would wear while ministering in the Lord’s presence.
- He removed his kingly robe, *his identity*, and humbled himself, giving honor to the one true king.
- His wife, Michal, was offended. In her eyes, the king was not behaving like a king.

**2 Samuel 6:16** As the ark of the Lord was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched from a window. And when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord, she despised him in her heart.

**Don’t be surprised if some people around you are offended by the way you praise the Lord; put off by your DEFIANT praise.**

**2 Samuel 6:20-22** When David returned home to bless his household, Michal daughter of Saul came out to meet him and said, “How the king of Israel has distinguished himself today, going around half-naked in full view of the slave girls of his servants as any vulgar fellow would!” David said to Michal, “It was before the Lord, who chose me rather than your father or anyone from his house when he appointed me ruler over the Lord’s people Israel—**I will celebrate before the Lord**. I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes. But by these slave girls you spoke of, I will be held in honor.”

Michal’s was uncomfortable, offended, and perhaps embarrassed by David’s behavior. David explains to her what he did was for the Lord. It was towards Him, for Him and about Him.

**2 Samuel 6:21** David said to Michal, “It was before the Lord, who chose me rather than your father or anyone from his house when he appointed me ruler over the Lord’s people Israel—**I will celebrate before the Lord**.”

- David was clear about **who** it was for. He praised in this manner because he was filled with thanksgiving.

**Psalm 103:1-5** Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all His benefits— who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Defiant praise happens when you experience God's astonishing faithfulness. Words of gratitude and wonder will flow from your lips to an awe-inspiring God! King David was not going to let anyone stop him from praising the Lord and we shouldn't either.

*- What victories have you experienced in your life that should/would cause you to be thankful to the Lord?*

*- Have you experienced a time when people are offended by the way that you live for God?*

## **DEFIANT PRAYER**

Prayer:

To talk to God; communication with God. It includes petition, adoration, and thanksgiving.

Daniel was a young Israelite who was captured by King Nebuchadnezzar when he besieged Jerusalem. He came to receive honor and authority from the king when the Lord helped him know Nebuchadnezzar's dream and interpret it.

- Nebuchadnezzar's son Belshazzar became King of the Babylonians and after he was killed, Darius the Mede became king.
- King Darius appointed 120 governors in his provinces and 3 administrators over them; Daniel was one of the 3 administrators.
- Daniel so distinguished himself that King Darius planned to place him over the entire kingdom, but the other administrators and the governors plotted to find fault in Daniel's dealings. They found nothing. They decided it was going to have to be, as they said, "something to do with the law of his God."

**Daniel 6:6-11** So these administrators and satraps went as a group to the king and said: "May King Darius live forever! The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions' den. Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed." So King Darius put the decree in writing. 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. Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help.

There are people or situations that will try to bring you down, but can you imagine if the only thing they can try to attack is our relationship with God?

- The enemy will always attack that very thing, your relationship with God. He will use people or difficult situations to do it.

Daniel is living his life devoted to the Lord, honoring God in all he does. He is serving a pagan king and people yet is still met with these difficult circumstances.

*- Have you ever been obeying the Lord, living your life to honor Him, and you received tough news or had to deal with an unfortunate situation? How did you respond?*

**Daniel 6:10** 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.

1. Daniel went home to his upstairs room.

- This is a personal place where he met with God. He encountered the Lord here.

*- Do you have a personal place where you encounter the Lord regularly?*

2. Daniel got down on his knees to pray three times everyday.

- He had a routine he followed.
- This is **“the gift of EVERY DAY!”**
- Every day you have the opportunity, the privilege, to live for the Lord, to obey His word and be in His presence.

*- Do you have a routine for prayer?*

3. Daniel gave thanks to God.

- He is facing persecution, yet Daniel thanks God!
- This is a display of **defiant faith**. Daniel was facing trouble, but he knew God could be trusted, come what may.
- Prayer combined with thanksgiving is powerful!

**Philippians 4:6** Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- *Amid difficulty, can you still thank God for who He is and what He has already done?*
- *What can you thank God for today?*

4. Daniel did "just as he had done before."

- He made talking to God a habit.
- When he heard about this decree that threatened his relationship with God, or his life, he didn't have to panic. He did what he had always done when he faced trouble. He prayed.

- *What do you need to do or /change to make prayer a habit?*

**Daniel 6:13-14** Then they said to the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day." When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him.

The men pushed the king to carry out his decree according to their law and called Daniel to have him put in the lion's den.

**Daniel 6:18** Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

King Darius was distressed. He was determined to rescue Daniel. He came back to his palace and couldn't eat or sleep that night.

- This is significant because it teaches that King Darius cared about Daniel.

Why didn't Daniel go to the king in the beginning and explain his perspective, or the fact that the men had lied, and Daniel never agreed to this decree? Because his response was to pray first!

Daniel put his trust in God instead of men; that's **defiant faith!** Defiant faith is **trusting God** and not man. **It is trusting His faithfulness and love**, instead of fearing your circumstances.

If Daniel would have gone to the king, he may have been spared for the time. However, his enemies would still have tried to destroy him. Daniel went to the Lord in faith and the Lord didn't only deliver him from the judgement of the decree, but He also destroyed his enemies when the king put them in the lion's den.

We must learn become defiant in our prayer lives.

- Set aside a place.
- Give thanks.
- Make it into a routine.
- Create a habit.

**Both David and Daniel put their trust in the Lord, displaying defiant praise and defiant prayer.**

**Psalm 31:14** But I trust in you, Lord; I say, "You are my God." My times are in your hands; deliver me from the hands of my enemies, from those who pursue me.

**Psalm 81:13** If my people would only listen to me, if Israel would only follow my ways, how quickly I would subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes!

- *Do you trust God like Daniel did, turning to Him first?*

- *What do you believe?*

- *What are you going to do with what you believe?*