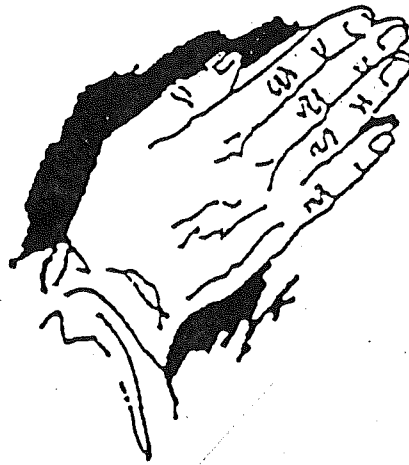


A GRATEFUL SPIRIT

(How Daniel Responds To Answered Prayer)
Daniel 2: 1-23, 46-49



- ◆ Daniel's Action
- ◆ Daniel's Adoration
- ◆ Daniel's Advancement

"I thank you O God, for it is You that has given me wisdom and might"
(Daniel 2:23)

Bill Kirk

“THE POWER OF A GRATEFUL SPIRIT”

(Message #3)

Text: Daniel 2:1-23, / 46-49
Subject: What To Do When You Don't Know What To Do

Introduction

In Chapter 1, “The Power Of Integrity”

- ◆ How Daniel passed the food, wine and name test.
- ◆ How Daniel purposed in his heart to be true to God.
- ◆ How Daniel was rewarded with health and favor from the king. (Because he was true to God)

In Chapter 2, “The Power Of Gratefulness”

Its characteristic #2: (Of an excellent spirit) A willingness to “Thank God” when blessings come your way” (or) a willingness to take no credit for what God has done!

Chapter 2: Verses 19-23: “I thank thee and praise thee O God; it is You that has given me wisdom and made known the kings dream unto me”.

- ◆ In (v. 1), King Nebuchadnezzar dreams a dream about an image and can't sleep.
- ◆ In (v.10), No one in the king's palace can interpret the dream.
- ◆ In (v. 12), The angry king says, “Kill all the wise men of Babylon”.
- ◆ In (vs. 15 & 16), Daniel says, “Hold on boss, don't be so impatient”.
- ◆ In (v. 16), “Give me some time and the Lord will show me what He means”.
- ◆ In (v. 19), “The secret is revealed to Daniel”.

Question: What does Daniel do afterward?

Answer: (V. 23), He pauses to thank God and give Him all the praise, thanks, credit and glory.

Question: How did God reward Daniel?

Answer: (V. 28), Daniel was promoted and blessed above all:

“Then the king made Daniel a great man, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon”.

(Notice The Setting Of Our Text)

- ◆ In (v. 1), the king has a dream and his sleep deserts him.
- ◆ In (v. 5), the king says to the Chaldeans, “If you don't interpret this dream, you will be cut in pieces”.
- ◆ In (v. 10), the Chaldeans reply, “There is not a man on earth that can interpret your dream”.
- ◆ In (v. 13), the decree goes out, “Daniel and his friends must be slain”.
- ◆ And God teaches us how to respond and react in a crisis.

I. Daniel's Action (Vs. 14-19)

Question: How does Daniel respond to the kings intimidating decree, (you'll soon be cut in pieces?)

- ◆ In (V. 14), he answers with counsel and wisdom.
- ◆ In (v. 16, he gets an audience with the king and asks for a little time.
- ◆ In (v. 17), he tells his prayer partners (his 3 best friends) about the impending crisis.

- ◆ In (v. 18), Daniel teaches us how to pray:

“That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret”.

- ◆ It's the power of united prayer in one-accord.

(I Notice Here:)

- #1. The ungodly can't sleep and are miserable on the earth, (but)
- #2. The godly are happy (while in danger) because they know the Lord in the place of prayer.

Question: What happens when 4 committed believers agree in prayer?

Answer: (V. 19) “Then was the secret revealed to Daniel in a night vision”.

Question: Why did the answer come?

- #1. Because prayer was offered in **faith!**

- ◆ Hebrews 11:6 (All read)

- ◆ James 1:6-7 (All read)

- #2. Prayer was offered in **earnest!**

- ◆ It was a matter of life or death.

- ◆ Genesis 32:26, “I won't let you go until the answer comes”, said Jacob.

- #3. Prayer was offered on the basis of **mercy.**

(v. 18) “They desired mercies of the God of heaven”.

- ◆ Not our works or deeds in prayer,

- ◆ But we come on the basis of His mercy, His grace, His work, His merit and His worth.

- #4. Prayer was offered from a **pure heart.**

- ◆ I John 3:22

- ◆ John 9:31

- ◆ Daniel had purposed already (ch.1:18) that he would not defile himself and be unfaithful to God.

Fact: Daniel's action was one of prayer in a crisis!

II. **Daniel's Adoration (Vs. 20-23)**

Question: What did Daniel do when the answer came his way?

Answer: (V. 19) “Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven”.

- ◆ His gratitude was **prompt!**

- ◆ His gratitude was **hearty!**

- ◆ His gratitude was **full!**

Question: Pastor, what produces a grateful spirit within my heart?

Answer: Understanding the One to whom we pray to for answers!

(3 Things Produce Gratitude)

- #1. **God Is Wise**

(V. 20) “Blessed be the Name of God for ever and ever, for **wisdom**”

- ◆ Divine wisdom to carry out His plan.

- ◆ Divine wisdom to intervene for Daniel.

- ◆ Divine wisdom to reveal the unknown dream of the king.

- #2. **God Is Mighty**

(V. 20), “Blessed be the Lord for might is His”.

- ◆ Might is the power to execute what His wisdom has planned. (Repeat)
- ◆ Might is God's strength to do what we cannot do.
- ◆ Mighty is the Lord means: God is able to do what is impossible with you and me.

#3. God Is Omniscient

(V.22), "He knows what is in the darkness, (and can reveal the deep and secret things)."

- ◆ No darkness can obscure His vision of you.
- ◆ No clouds can hide you from the Lord.
- ◆ No night season can keep you from His sight, His love, and His care.

(Read Verse 23)

"I thank Thee and praise Thee O God, who has given me wisdom and might and has made known unto me what we desired (or prayed for) of Thee".

(V. 27) "O king, your boys can't do it". (V. 28) "But there is a God in heaven"

Question: What do believers do when they don't know what to do?

Answer: We remind ourselves that **there is a God in heaven.**

III. Daniel's Advancement (Vs. 46-49)

Question: How was the king affected by Daniel's prayer being answered?

Answer: (V. 47), "Daniel, your God is the God of Gods, King of Kings and Lord of Lords"

- ◆ In V. 47, the king lifts up Jehovah.
- ◆ In V. 48, the king lifts up Daniel.
- ◆ In V. 49, the king lifts up Daniel's 3 friends. (Why?)

Because when Daniel faced the crisis – he prayed.

And when Daniel prayed – God answered,.

And when God answered – Daniel deflected all the credit to God with a grateful spirit.

(Just one ingredient of an *excellent spirit*).

Question: What is it?

Answer: It is what to do (when you don't know what to do:)

#1. Daniel retreats to pray:

- ◆ He is smart enough to transfer responsibility over to God.

Question: Do you need to do this for any concern in your life?

#2. Daniel receives an answer to prayer:

- ◆ He experiences supernatural intervention because the Lord still answers when we pray.

Question: Do you believe God will answer when you pray?

#3. Daniel remembers who to thank when the answer arrives:

- ◆ He quickly deflects all the credit and glory to whom He prayed to.

Question: Do you have cause to "Thank God" for something (anything) today?

AMEN! Altar call
Bill Kirk, Pastor