

Carey Baptist Church – 18th of Oct 2026 - Daniel 1

Standing Faithful Always

Thanks for the invite to share the Word of God.

By the Grace of God, *'You can live in a world that pressures you to compromise but without allowing the world to change who you are'.*

Daniel a great character who I admire and chapter 1 you just heard begins with a crisis.

Jerusalem has been conquered. The people of Judah have been taken into Babylonian captivity. Daniel and his friends, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah are young men taken from their homeland and placed in a completely different culture.

Everything familiar has been taken from them:

Their home, their Nation, their surroundings, their freedom and even their names were changed

Yet there was one thing Babylon could not take from Daniel: **his commitment to God.**

Daniel teaches us that faithfulness is not dependent on comfortable circumstances. Sometimes the greatest test of our faith comes when we are surrounded by people and pressures that encourage us to compromise. Our Lord Jesus warned us in John 16: 33 saying "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you **will have tribulation**; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Daniel without hearing the Lord, still was in good cheer not to compromise, but how about you and me, after hearing the Lord? Could we continue to be faithful in the midst of crisis.

1. Daniel was faithful when everything around him changed

Babylonians gave Daniel and his friends new names. They were trying to reshape their identity.

Babylon was essentially saying: "You are no longer who you were. You belong to us now."

But although Babylon could change Daniel's **name**, it could not change his **heart**.

This is important for us today. The world constantly tries to tell us who we should be.

Our identity can be influenced by:

our job, our relationships, our failures, our successes, money, social media and specifically other people's opinions.

But the Christian's deepest identity is not found in what the world says about us. Do we know our identity? For the ones who are still unsure about this, the to be sure, **Our identity is found in God Almighty. The Great I AM, Jehovah, Yahweh, our loving Abba Father.**

Who are we? What does God say about us in the Bible?

Any suggestions? Let us see if we really know who we are in God.

Ask the congregation!!!

2. Daniel made a decision before the pressure came

Verse 8 says: **"But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food or with the wine that he drank."**

Notice the word **"resolved."** Daniel made a decision. He didn't wait until the temptation became overwhelming. He didn't say, "Let me see what everyone else is doing."

He had already decided where he stood. There is tremendous power in making spiritual decisions **before** the pressure comes.

If you wait until temptation arrives to decide what you believe, you may make a decision based on emotion. But when you settle your convictions beforehand, you can stand when the pressure comes.

Daniel essentially said: **"I would rather disappoint the king than disappoint God." We need that same conviction.** How many of us may try to please people where we would benefit in some way, rather than God, forgetting that HE is the benefactor. HE is the provider. Jehovah Jireh. Phil: 4:19 "My God shall supply all your need...."

Before we face the pressure, we need to decide:

I will remain honest even when dishonesty benefits me. I will remain faithful even when compromise is easier. I will remain pure even when impurity is normalised. I will forgive even when bitterness feels justified. I will honour God even when nobody is watching. Faithfulness begins with a decision. In Joshua 24:15 he says, "But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Decision taken already.

3. Daniel refused compromise without becoming disrespectful

There is something beautiful about Daniel's approach. He did not rebel aggressively. He did not insult the officials. He did not create unnecessary conflict.

Scripture says that he **"asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself."** You see, it was a request from Daniel not an order.

He knew what he believed, but he also knew how to communicate it. This is an important lesson. Sometimes Christians think that standing for God means being argumentative, angry, or disrespectful. But Daniel shows us another way.

You can stand firmly for your convictions while treating people respectfully.

We need Courage without arrogance. Conviction without hostility. Truth without hatred. and **Faith without compromise.**

4. God honoured Daniel's faithfulness

Daniel 1:9 says:

"And God gave Daniel favour and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs."

Daniel stood for God and God stood with Daniel.

This does not mean that faithfulness always makes life easy. That is why our Lord Jesus never painted a rosy picture of being a Christian, but HE said the truth. But assured, in whatever we go through, HE said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you". That's HIS promise.

Daniel was still in Babylon. He was still a captive. His circumstances did not immediately change. But God gave him **favour in the middle of difficult circumstances**.

Sometimes we pray: "God, take me out of this situation." But God may instead say: "I will be with you in this situation." God doesn't always remove the Babylon. Sometimes He gives us strength to stand in Babylon. Paul asked the Lord three times to remove the thorn in his flesh, but God said, my strength is made perfect in weakness. Can we also say with Paul that "when I am weak then I am strong"

5. Daniel's faithfulness was tested in the small things

The issue of food may seem small compared with everything Daniel was facing. But small compromises can eventually lead to large compromises. Daniel understood something important: **Character is built through small decisions**. The Word of God confirms this –

Matthew 25:21 & 23:

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master!'"

Luke 19:17

"And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities.'"

We often imagine that great spiritual failures happen suddenly or with a huge sin. But many times, they begin with a small thought: *"It's only this once."* *"Everyone else is doing it."* *"It doesn't really matter."* *"God will understand."* My friend asked me what kind of a religion if you can't even say a small lie! You would have to tell thousand lies to hide that small lie. Daniel teaches us that what we do in the small things matters. If we are faithful in small things, we develop the strength to remain faithful when greater tests come.

6. God gave Daniel wisdom beyond his circumstances

After ten days, Daniel and his friends were healthier than those who ate the king's food.

Verse 17 tells us: **"God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom."**

Notice again: **God gave**. HE is the greatest giver as I mentioned earlier. Daniel's ability was ultimately a gift from God. His faithfulness did not make him less capable. It made him useful. What are we good at today< what are we boasting of! Lest we forget that ALL what we have is from God.

God gave Daniel wisdom to operate in a secular environment without losing his spiritual identity. That is a powerful message for us. You don't have to leave the world to serve God.

You can honour God: in your workplace, in your school, in your university, in your business, in your family and among people who even don't share your faith. Daniel worked in Babylon, but he served God. Your environment does not have to determine your faithfulness.

7. Daniel's faithfulness outlasted the culture around him

The final verse of the chapter says: **"And Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus."**

Daniel outlasted kings, He outlasted governments, He outlasted political systems., He outlasted cultural changes.

Why? Because Daniel's life was not built on Babylon. **It was built on God.**

Babylon changed, Kings changed, Power changed, But Daniel remained faithful.

And this is the encouragement for us: **Don't build your life on things that change. Build your life on the God who does not change.**

Conclusion: What will we choose?

Daniel 1 asks every believer a question: **What will you do when your faith is tested?**

Will you compromise because everyone else is doing it? Or will you stand?

Will you allow your circumstances to determine your faith? Or will you trust in God?

Will you allow the culture to define you? Or will you allow God to define you?

Daniel didn't choose the circumstances he was placed in. But he did choose how he would live in them.

And perhaps that's where many of us are today. We may not be able to control everything happening around us. But we can control our response. We can choose faithfulness. We can choose obedience. We can choose integrity. We can choose prayer and We can choose to honour God.

Remember Daniel's example:

You can be in Babylon without belonging to Babylon.

You can live in a changing world while serving an unchanging God.

And when you make the decision to remain faithful, you can trust that **God is with you even in Babylon and even unto death.** Matthew 28:20

Closing Prayer

Father,

Give us the courage of Daniel.

Help us to remain faithful when we are under pressure to compromise. Give us wisdom to live in this world without allowing the world to change our hearts. Help us to honour You in the small decisions and the great decisions. When our circumstances change, remind us that You never change. Give us strength when we feel alone, wisdom when we don't know what to do, and courage when our faith is tested. May our lives point people toward You, just as Daniel's life pointed people toward You.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

