

Daniel: *Living Lessons in the Walk of Faith* (Part 1)
April 27, 2008—Jerry Cisar

TEXT: Daniel 1

Introduction: What is this book about?

A. This book is about how four Israelites.

These four men demonstrate Biblical faith in the midst of a alien world; faith in an all sovereign God at great personal risk, manifesting the wisdom of God in the affairs of this life.

B. This book is about you.

- i. This book is **about you** walking by faith—risky faith, costly faith—walking in Biblical wisdom.
- ii. The burden of this book is a clarion call from God to walk by faith in this living God.

Biblical wisdom is rooted in our constant awareness of God's sovereign direction over all of life, dynamic activity in the midst of life, and silent call to live by faith.

I. Biblical wisdom is rooted in our constant awareness of God's sovereign direction over all of life.

Only a Biblical faith that sees God's sovereign direction over all of life can produce a wisdom that discerns the times.

II. Biblical wisdom is rooted in our constant awareness of God's *dynamic activity in the midst of life*.

A. This point is rooted in these verses: *“the Lord delivered (vs. 2), God had caused” (vs. 9), and “to these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding” (vs. 17).*

i. Daniel's resolution (vs. 8) reveals He is aware of the **God's dynamic activity in the midst of life**.

ii. Daniel's test (vss. 11-13) reveal an expectation of God's dynamic activity in response to their trust in Him.

III. Biblical wisdom is rooted in our constant awareness of God's *silent call to live by faith*.

A. Can you hear it?

B. What was Daniel's “silent call to live by faith”?

i. Why did Daniel make this resolution?

a) Was it because of dietary laws?

b) Vs. 5: This allotment was *“from the king's table.”*

➤ It represented unity with the king... complete fellowship.

➤ It represented sustenance and provision from the king.

ii. We are called to do the same.

a) 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

b) 1 Peter 2:11

C. **Constant awareness** of God's **silent call** to live by faith.

iii. Constant awareness: Not occasional awareness.

iv. **Things that keep us off frequency:**

v. **Things that keep us tuned into the right frequency:**

Drawing Lines

*Making the connection between what we "know" about the Gospel
and how we think and live.*

- Why is it important to see that this chapter (or book) is not just about four Israelites and their faith but about us and our faith?
- Why is an awareness of God's sovereign direction over all life essential to walking in a wisdom that discerns the times?
- What is meant by "God's dynamic activity in the midst of life" in the sermon? How do verses 11-13 reveal an expectation of God's dynamic activity in their lives?
- Why does Biblical wisdom require an awareness of God's dynamic activity in the midst of life?
- In way was Daniel's faith risky and costly? What risks and costs is God calling you to through the silent call to live by faith?
- Why did Daniel's circumstances dictate that he live through faith rather than relying on the law to tell him how to live?
- What things might be preventing you from hearing God's silent call to walk by faith?