

Daniel 6 *Living Lessons in the Walk of Faith* (part 6)
The Diligent Nature of Faith
July 6, 2008—Jerry Cisar

Text: Daniel 6

Intro: When does diligence really matter?

- Hebrews 11:6

B. vs. 26-27 This is about **faith in the *Living God***...

Here we are going to learn how living faith in the Living God diligently seeks Him.

C. Vs. 16 Something **significant about the nature of faith**:

- i. **When did Daniel's diligence matter?** On the day of his deliverance...rescue.
- ii. How was Daniel diligent? How are we called to be diligent from this text?

D. **What does diligence look like?**

3 Things about faith that diligently seeks God(6:10-11):

I. Daniel's diligent prayer life grew from faith in God's Word.

- **Psalm 55:16-18**

- 1 Kings 8:23, 27-30, 46-51, 56-61

- B. Daniel's diligent prayer life grew from faith in God's Word.
 - i. Faith that obeyed God's word.
 - ii. Faith that looked to God's word for examples of how to live it out.
 - iii. Faith that believed God's word even after a lifetime of waiting for its fulfillment.

II. Daniel's diligent prayer life didn't begin in protest of the king's decree.

- A. Daniel didn't begin a new habit that day, he continued a life-long habit.
- B. Daniel didn't pray in protest of the king's decree.
- C. Daniel's enemies set this entire plot against him up because they already knew how faithful he was in prayer.

III. Daniel's diligent prayer life was an expression of living dependence on the living God.

- A. ...found Daniel *praying and asking God for help*.
- B. vs. 11 Daniel's prayer was also filled with thanksgiving.

Conclusion: How do we apply Daniel's diligence to our lives?

A. The word of God (command and promise)

Daniel was compelled to faithfulness by the word of God which both directed him to pray and promised him God's faithfulness to deliver His people.

- i. We are also directed to pray with our eyes open:

- Ephesians 6:18
- Colossians 4:2, 12
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“He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.”

ii. What promise do we have?

- Ephesians 3:20

B. The love of Jerusalem

- 1 Thess 1:2-4
- Philippians 1:3
- Eph 1:15

C. The need for God's help in accomplishing it...

Drawing Lines

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

- Where in this text do we see Daniel believing that God “rewards those who diligently seek him”? How was Daniel diligent?
- Does your prayer life reflect a diligent seeking of God? Is seeking God a greater motivation for your prayer, or reaction against worldly demands to not pray in public?
- How do we follow Daniel's example of diligence in prayer? Do we pray 3 times per day? Toward Jerusalem? Out a window? What can we take away and apply to our lives?
- We find Paul frequently talking about praying “Ever since I heard about your faith...” (or similar phrases). Why? What can we learn from this about what motivates his prayer?
- Daniel was desperate for God's help as he prayed facing Jerusalem. Are you desperate for God's help for the church? Why ought we to be equally as desperate in light of what God has called us to be?
- Why should we be equally as confident that God will come through for the church?