

Daniel 10: Animated Lessons in the Walk of Faith (part 4)
Jerry Cisar—August 10, 2008

Text: Daniel 10

I. Daniel 10:1-3 MOURNING

A. : Have you ever lived in the 3rd year of King Cyrus?

➤ Ezra 4:4-5

➤ Proverbs 13:12

Daniel is ever so cognizant of being an alien and stranger in a foreign land.

Spiritual maturity requires us to learn how to live with unfulfilled expectations.

B. This is no time for a party.

i. Daniel is still hearing and heeding the silent call to live by faith.

Sinclair Ferguson: *“We miss the point of the constant emphasis on Daniel's understanding, wisdom, and discernment if we fail to see that it led him to become a man of prayer.”*

Wisdom hears this silent call to prayer and responds.

ii. Have you fully embraced the culture you live in?

➤ 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

II. Daniel 10:4, 12-14 WAITING

A. How long are you willing to wait on God?

- i. Luke 18:1-8

B. Why the delay?

- i. Vs. 12, 13 Spiritual Warfare

Abraham Kuyper: *“If once the curtain were pulled back, and the spiritual world behind it came into view, it would expose to our spiritual vision a struggle so intense, so convulsive, sweeping everything within its range, that the fiercest battle ever fought on earth would seem, by comparison, a mere game.”*

Daniel's prayer, which apparently played a role in spiritual warfare, did not involve speaking to the demons but speaking to God.

- a) Ephesians 6:10-18 Spiritual warfare is carried on as we pray.

- b) James 4:7-10

Resisting the devil is quenching the fiery darts of doubt with the shield of faith.

III. Daniel 10:5-11, 16 ENCOUNTERING

A. Daniel is *Touched by an Angel*.

- i. **Alone, Weak, and Helpless**

God's touch may leave us weak in this world, but strong in the next.

- ii. A touch but him on his hands and knees.

- iii. A Word spoken stood him up trembling.

- iv. Another touch enables him to speak: to pray: pleading his weakness.

Jack Miller: *“You see, there is ‘prayer’ and there is God-given prayer. The former is superficial, the work of orphans who may be religious people but are unwilling to surrender human independence to the leadership of Christ. God-given prayer and praise have as their essence a waiting on God, a willingness to be wrought upon by the hammer and the fire of the Almighty, until the chains of self-centered desires fall away from the personality, and the love of Christ becomes the deepest hunger of the inner life.”*

I. Acts 9:16

IV. We have some spiritual warfare to do ourselves:

A. Pray

- i. 1 Timothy 2:1-2
- ii. Pray for our Gospel witness in this community.
- iii. Pray to strengthen one another.

B. Fast

C. Wait

Drawing Lines

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

- What significance is there to the date, the 3rd year of king Cyrus, for Daniel?
- “Hope deferred makes the heart sick.” (Proverbs 13:12). What does it mean to say, “Faith is wrestling through that sick heart”?
- Read 1 Corinthians 7:29-31. Have you fully embraced the culture you live in? What are you engrossed in? What do you purposely choose to not partake so as to be sustained from God's table?
- Do you live life as if it were a party or a battleground? How should our knowledge of living in a battleground effect how we live?
- Compare Daniel's encounter in chapter 10, with Saul's encounter in Acts 9. What similarities are there; what differences.
- 1 Timothy 2:1-2 tells us to pray for all men. Then it asks us to specifically pray for leaders so that we might lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and holiness. What is at stake in our upcoming elections? Why is it important to pray? Why is prayer a primary duty for the Christian in the election?