

HOW TO WITNESS LIKE DANIEL AND HIS FRIENDS

Daniel 1-6

- 1:8 – Be holy** – Dare to be like Daniel and his friends when they did not eat the king's food, which must have been offered to idols. They could have been killed by the king for not eating his food, but they dared to separate themselves from the idolatry of the world so they could please God. This was a witness to their supervisor and to the rest of the trainees. They stood for their biblical convictions. Your separation from the world is a testimony of God's holiness. It will be noticed by the world and may arouse questions that will give you an occasion to witness of your faith in God.
- 2:28 – Be bold** – Speak boldly about God's knowledge and power like Daniel did when he told the king that God had made known to him what he had dreamed on his bed. God would make known to him what was going to happen in the future. God is in charge, so be bold in His power. Do not let the unsaved intimidate you.
- 2:37 – Be honest** – Speak the truth exactly as God has revealed it to you. That is the only way to be effective in your
- 2:45 – Be sure** – Give your witness with certainty and with confidence [3:17; 5:17]. This will earn the respect of your hearers.
- 3:18 – Be submissive** – Admit that God controls your life, even though it goes contrary to men's orders. This may stir up wrath, but it will lay the foundation for a solid witness.
- 4:19 – Be gentle** – When you must tell bad news to the sinner, do it with gentleness, showing concern for their welfare.
- 4:27 – Be urgent** – Plead with the sinner to turn from his sins to God without delay (2 Cor 5:20).
- 5:17 – Be ready** – Witness whenever the opening is given to you. Believe that God has opened the door for you (1 Pet 3:15).
- 5:17 – Be pure** – Refuse bribes and other gifts for your service, so your witness is righteous.
- 5:18ff – Be accurate** – Use well known facts from Bible history to strengthen and clarify your witness.
- 5:22f – Be truthful** – Identify the sinner's obvious sins; make him think about God's judgment.
- 5:24ff – Be personal** – Apply the message of God's judgment to the sinner's life.
- 6:5 – Be transparent** – Be open about your personal faith in God and live above reproach without wavering.
- 6:10 – Be consistent** – Live a consistent godly life. This is the basis for an effective witness [6:16-20].
- 6:23 – Believe God** – Your faith in God in times of difficulty will be a witness to the unsaved.

HOW TO PRAY LIKE DANIEL

Daniel 6, 9

DANIEL 6:10

Daniel prayed SERIOUSLY: “he went into his house”

Dan 9:3-4; 10:2-3; Mt 6:5-6

Daniel prayed SCRIPTURALLY: “his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem”

Dan 9:2-4 (Jer 29:10, 14); 2 Chr 6:36-39

Daniel prayed SUBMISSIVELY: “he kneeled upon his knees

Ezra 9:5; Eph 3:14

Daniel prayed SYSTEMATICALLY: (he prayed) “three times a day”

Ps 55:17

Daniel prayed SINCERELY: (he) “gave thanks before his God”

Eph 5:20; 1 Th 5:18

Daniel prayed STEADFASTLY: “as he did aforetime”

Lk 18:1; Eph 6:18; 1 Th 5:17

DANIEL 9

Daniel humbled himself – 9:3

2 Chr 7:14; 1 Pet 5:6

Daniel magnified God – 9:4, 7, 9

Dan 2:20-23

Daniel confessed his sin – 9:5-10

Prov 28:13-14; 1 Jn 1:9

Daniel justified God – 9:11-14

Dan 9:7; Neh 9:33

Daniel made his request – 9:15-18

Mt 7:7-8

Daniel was earnest – 9:19

1 Kgs 8:28; Ps 18:6; 107:19

THE RESULTS OF DANIEL’S PRAYERS

Daniel 2, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12

Daniel 2:17-19 – Received the vision of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream and its interpretation.

Daniel 6:20-24 – Received deliverance from the lions and from his enemies.

Daniel 9:20-27 – Received one of the most amazing prophecies in the Bible.

Daniel 10:4-12:13 – Received one of the most detailed prophecies in the Bible. It has been said there are 135 prophecies in these chapters and most of them have already been literally fulfilled.

HOW TO OVERCOME PROBLEMS

DANIEL 1-2

1. How to overcome depression and live above the circumstances – 1:1-2

The defeat and captivity of Judah caused many Jews to be depressed. Daniel overcame depression by drawing close to God and witnessing to others about His great power [2:28, 37, 44, 45].

2. How to overcome the influence of a sinful society and keep pure – 1:4-8

Daniel overcame a corrupt society by determining to keep himself pure [1:8; cf 1 Cor 10:13; Phil 2:13].

3. How to overcome sin and do God's will – 1:9-21; cf Rom 12:1-2

Daniel requested to be excused from eating the king's food, which would defile him, but Ashpenaz denied his request. This did not stop Daniel, but he learned to persist in doing God's will. Daniel then talked to Melzar and suggested a test for ten days. God blessed him and his friends in four ways:

- a. God blessed them with their request being granted [1:11].
- b. God blessed them with excellent health [1:15-16].
- c. God blessed them with knowledge and skill in learning [1:17].
- d. God blessed them with favor from the king [1:18-21].

4. How to overcome stressful demands and be successful – 2:1-16

Nebuchadnezzar demanded that his wise men reveal his dream and then interpret it for him or be killed. None of his wise men could do it. No doubt Daniel and his three friends were still in training so they were not asked to help in this matter. Nevertheless, they were going to be killed along with all of the other wise men for not fulfilling the king's demand. How did Daniel handle this stressful situation?

- a. Daniel remained calm and asked for all the facts [2:15].
- b. Daniel trusted God to help him and told the king that he would satisfy his demands [2:16].

5. How to overcome a lack of knowledge when it is desperately needed – 2:17- 49

- a. Daniel needed to know the king's dream and its interpretation quickly or be killed.
- b. Daniel and his friends prayed to God and He gave Daniel a vision with all the answers [2:19-23]. (Today, believers go to the Bible for God's answers to problems.)
- c. Daniel honored God above Nebuchadnezzar's gods [2:24-30].
- d. Daniel revealed and interpreted the dream for Nebuchadnezzar [2:31-45].
- e. Daniel magnified God before Nebuchadnezzar and the king honored him [2:46-49].

HOW TO KEEP PURE WHEN DEALING WITH PROUD MEN

DANIEL 3-8

- 1. Refuse to submit to their sinful demands – 3:12.**
- 2. Make no excuses for not conforming to their demands – 3:16.**
- 3. Yield yourself totally to God – 3:17-18.**
- 4. Seek their spiritual welfare – 4:19, 27.**
- 5. Refuse their gifts for doing God's work – 5:17.**
- 6. Remind them of God's past judgments – 5:18-22.**
- 7. Rebuke them for their foolish activity – 5:23.**
- 8. Do right before God and yield not to their schemes – 6:10-11.**
- 9. Remind yourself of God's plan for the nations – Daniel 7-8.**

This will remove any awe you may have of their lofty and powerful positions. Remember, you serve the almighty God, who is King of the whole earth.