



+ **YOU**

**Sermon Series: Authentic Christian Living**  
**To be used with Session 4: Live Courageously**  
**Sermon Title Possibilities:**  
**Authentic Courage: Daniel 6:6-13,16-17,21-23**

**Connection with Unit Theme:** To complement the small group study "Live Courageously," this sermon reminds believers to do the right thing in God's strength.

## **Introduction**

This is that portion of Scripture that communicates a time when Daniel's co-workers sought to find something against him. The only thing they could find was that he talked to the Lord God Jehovah on a regular basis. They played on the king's arrogance and had him write a decree that said no person in his province could bow to or petition no other person or god except him. He foolishly signed the decree. Here, we see Daniel's devotion to God on display, and glean some lessons about Living Courageously. In this message, I want to encourage you from this text to ***Maintain Your Spiritual Devotion, Maintain Your Spiritual Disciplines, and Maintain Your Spiritual Demeanor.***

### **1. Maintain Your Spiritual Devotion (v. 6-10).**

The key phrase which reveals Daniel's spiritual devotion is "When Daniel learned that the document had been signed." It's amazing to see that when Daniel became aware of the king's threat to place in the lion's den anyone who bows to anyone or anything other than himself, Daniel went to pray and worship—as was his custom. This is devotion on display.

Some things marked Daniel's prayer-life that ought to mark ours. He Prioritized Prayer. He had a ***Place for Prayer***. He had a ***Posture for Prayer*** (he kneeled). He ***had Periods of Prayer*** (he did it three times a day). He ***had Passion in Prayer***. He offered ***Praise in Prayer***. And He was ***Persistent in Prayer***. May the Lord help you and I to have a prayer-life with these characteristics, and thereby Maintain Our Spiritual Devotion.

### **2. Maintain Your Spiritual Disciplines (v. 11-13).**

Again, the text shows that accusers said "Daniel prays three times a day." They also said that "Daniel...has ignored you, and the edict you signed." Daniel was so committed to the spiritual discipline of prayer that praying was the only trap they could set for him, and after knowing it could get him killed, he didn't stop praying.

This challenges us to have a fierce loyalty to the practices (spiritual disciplines) that help connect with Christ, become like Christ, and hear from Christ. Hey friend, no matter what trap the Enemy sends your way or life throws your way, don't stop engaging in spiritual disciplines.

### **3. Maintain Your Spiritual Demeanor (v. 16-17,21-23).**

We see Daniel maintaining his spiritual demeanor in both, what he didn't say & what he did say. The text does not suggest that Daniel asked to be spared, nor offer to denounce his God. That's what he didn't say. But notice what he did say. First, he said, "May the king live forever." There he was wishing life on the person who sentenced him to death. Secondly, he gave glory to God when he said, "My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths." Thirdly he said, "They haven't hurt me, for I was found innocent before Him." Then finally he said, "Also, I have not committed a crime against you my king."

Daniel's model encourages us to do good to those who mistreat us (Matt.5:43-45), to give all glory to God (Col. 3:17), remain innocent before the Lord (Luke 9:23), and to not sin against other people (Exod. 20:12-17).

## **Conclusion**

You engage in "Authentic Christian Living" when you are consistent. Be consistent in your spiritual devotion, be consistent in your practice of the spiritual disciplines, and be consistent in your spiritual demeanor. In doing so, you will be able to Live Courageously.

### **Author Bio**

*Reginald D. Taylor is a graduate of Crichton College, Union University, Capital Seminary, and is currently pursuing the Ph.D. degree at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is the senior Pastor of The Rock Church in Southaven, MS, and Assistant Professor/Director of Urban Theological Studies at MCUTS @ Union University in Memphis. He and his wife Dr. Tarra R. Taylor has one son—Reginald D. Taylor II—and three grandchildren Micah, Yara, and Aviyah.*