

BOLD WHEN IT COST YOU

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IN THE "BOLD FAITH" SERIES:

August 23: *Unashamed Boldness*

August 30: *Bold When it Cost You*

September 6: *Bold When it Doesn't Make Sense*

Daniel 6:1–28 (NLT) (1) Darius the Mede decided to divide the kingdom into 120 provinces, and he appointed a high officer to rule over each province. (2) The king also chose Daniel and two others as administrators to supervise the high officers and protect the king's interests. (3) Daniel soon proved himself more capable than all the other administrators and high officers. Because of Daniel's great ability, the king made plans to place him over the entire empire. (4) Then the other administrators and high officers began searching for some fault in the way Daniel was handling government affairs, but they couldn't find anything to criticize or condemn. He was faithful, always responsible, and completely trustworthy. (5) So they concluded, "Our only chance of finding grounds for accusing Daniel will be in connection with the rules of his religion." (6) So the administrators and high officers went to the king and said, "Long live King Darius! (7) We are all in agreement—we administrators, officials, high officers, advisers, and governors—that the king should make a law that will be strictly enforced. Give orders that for the next thirty days any person who prays to anyone, divine or human—except to you, Your Majesty—will be thrown into the den of lions. (8) And now, Your Majesty, issue and sign this law so it cannot be changed, an official law of the Medes and Persians that cannot be revoked." (9) So King Darius signed the law. (10) But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God. (11) Then the officials went together to Daniel's house and found him praying and asking for God's help. (12) So they went straight to the king and reminded him about his law. "Did you not sign a law that for the next thirty days any person who prays to anyone, divine or human—except to you, Your Majesty—will be thrown into the den of lions?" "Yes," the king replied, "that decision stands; it is an official law of the Medes and Persians that cannot be revoked." (13) Then they told the king, "That man Daniel, one of the captives from Judah, is ignoring you and your law. He still prays to his God three times a day." (14) Hearing this, the king was deeply troubled, and he tried to think of a way to save Daniel. He spent the rest of the day looking for a way to get Daniel out of this predicament. (15) In the evening the men went together to the king and said, "Your Majesty, you know that according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, no law that the king signs can be changed." (16) So at last the king gave orders for Daniel to be arrested and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to him, "May your God, whom you serve so faithfully, rescue you." (17) A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den. The king sealed the stone with his own royal seal and the seals of his nobles, so that no one could rescue Daniel. (18) Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night fasting. He refused his usual entertainment and couldn't sleep at all that night. (19) Very early the next morning, the king got up and hurried out to the lions' den. (20) When he got there, he called out in anguish, "Daniel, servant of the living God! Was your God, whom you serve so faithfully, able to rescue you from the lions?" (21) Daniel answered, "Long live the king! (22) My God sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, for I have been found innocent in his sight. And I have not wronged you, Your Majesty." (23) The king was overjoyed and ordered that Daniel be lifted from the den. Not a scratch was found on him, for he had trusted in his God. (24) Then the king gave orders to arrest the men who had maliciously accused Daniel. He had them thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. The lions leaped on them and tore them apart before they even hit the floor of the den. (25) Then King Darius sent this message to the people of every race and nation and language throughout the world: "Peace and prosperity to you! (26) 'I decree that everyone throughout my kingdom should tremble with fear before the God of Daniel. For he is the living God, and he will endure forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed, and his rule will never end. (27) He rescues and saves his people; he performs miraculous signs and wonders in the heavens and on earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.'" (28) So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

1) Daniel didn't _____ and he was willing to follow God's plan regardless of the potential negative consequences.

Daniel 1:8a (NLT) (8) But Daniel was determined not to defile himself by eating the food and wine given to them by the king.

Luke 12:4–5 (NLT) (4) "Dear friends, don't be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot do any more to you after that. (5) But I'll tell you whom to fear. Fear God, who has the power to kill you and then throw you into hell. Yes, he's the one to fear.

2) Daniel looked to God for a _____ he faced.

Philippians 4:6–7 (NLT) (6) Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. (7) Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

BOLD FAITH HAS PRAYER AS ITS FOUNDATION.

3) Daniel always _____ for the things He was able to do.

Daniel 2:27–28 (NLT) (27) Daniel replied, "There are no wise men, enchanters, magicians, or fortune-tellers who can reveal the king's secret. (28) But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and he has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in the future. Now I will tell you your dream and the visions you saw as you lay on your bed.

THE BOLD FAITH GOD WANTS YOU TO HAVE CAN NEVER JUST BE FOR YOUR PERSONAL BENEFIT OR RECOGNITION.

4) Daniel was _____ to God and to those He served.

Daniel 6:4 (NLT) (4) Then the other administrators and high officers began searching for some fault in the way Daniel was handling government affairs, but they couldn't find anything to criticize or condemn. He was faithful, always responsible, and completely trustworthy.

A BOLD FAITH IS BUILT ON ONE FAITHFUL DECISION AND ACTION FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER.

5) Daniel _____ and bring about the outcome God desired.

Joshua 1:9 (NLT) (9) This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Psalms 46:1 (NLT) (1) God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.

Psalms 27:1–3 (NLT) (1) The LORD is my light and my salvation— so why should I be afraid? The LORD is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble? (2) When evil people come to devour me, when my enemies and foes attack me, they will stumble and fall. (3) Though a mighty army surrounds me, my heart will not be afraid. Even if I am attacked, I will remain confident.

Hebrews 11:35–39 (NLT) (35) But others were tortured, refusing to turn from God in order to be set free. They placed their hope in a better life after the resurrection. (36) Some were jeered at, and their backs were cut open with whips. Others were chained in prisons. (37) Some died by stoning, some were sawed in half, and others were killed with the sword. Some went about wearing skins of sheep and goats, destitute and oppressed and mistreated. (38) They were too good for this world, wandering over deserts and mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground. (39) All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised.

GOD WANTS US TO HAVE A FAITH THAT WILL TRUST HIM EVEN WHEN THE OUTCOME IS UNCLEAR.

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