



Shine in Obedience

Philippians 2:15 says, “That ye may be blameless and harmless the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.” How can we “shine as lights” in a dark and sinful world? We must live lives of obedience.

DRAW NEAR—*Worship and and prepare your heart to hear from God’s Word.*

Share prayer requests and spend some time in prayer. Listen to worship music of your choice and prepare your heart to hear from God’s Word today.

Suggested Songs:

“I Will Follow ” – Chris Tomlin

“I Surrender All ” – Lauren Talley

“What It Feels Like ” – FFH

“Trust and Obey” –hymn

GO DEEP—*Dig into the Bible to learn truths from God’s Word.*

Read Daniel 6:1-28

Why is a life of obedience so important? And how does being obedient allow us to “shine” in a dark world? This month, we will dig into the life of Daniel and see how his obedience to God made a big difference.

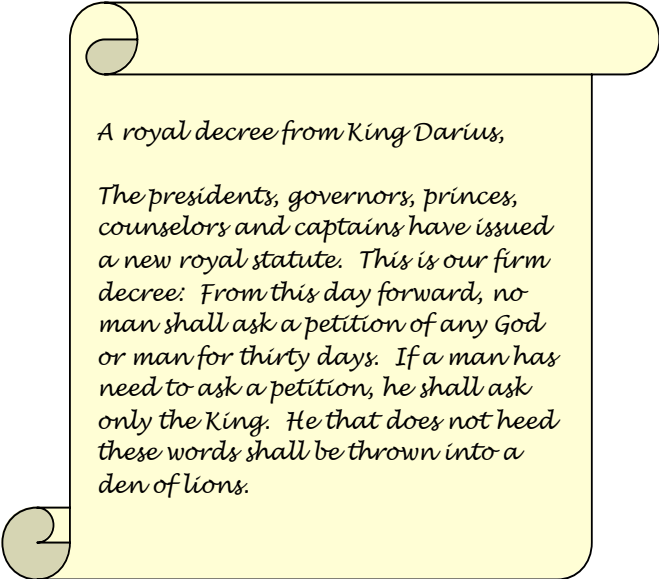
Daniel’s life is full of examples of how to be courageous and how to stand up for God. When Daniel was a teenager, he was captured and taken to Babylon. Even as a young captive, he stood up for God and refused to defile himself by eating the king’s meat and drinking the king’s wine (Daniel 1:8). God blessed Daniel’s decision, and kept him strong and healthy. He was one of the best young men in the kingdom—healthy, strong, and smart—and the king was impressed with him and his friends.

Daniel also had great talent in interpreting dreams (Daniel 1:17). When none of the magicians and astrologers were able to interpret the king’s dream, Daniel and his friends prayed and asked God to help them. God did, and Daniel was able to interpret King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream. The king was so impressed with Daniel that he made him the chief governor over all the wise men of Babylon (Daniel 2:49).

Because Daniel was faithful to God, he was blessed and successful. When King Darius took over the kingdom (Daniel 6:1), he recognized that “an excellent spirit” was in Daniel (Daniel 6:3). Seeing this inner quality, he put Daniel in the highest leadership position, over all the other presidents and princes of the kingdom.

The presidents and princes got together and tried to find something about Daniel that they could use against him to get him kicked out of his position, but they couldn’t find a single bad thing about him. They knew that Daniel was faithful to God, so they decided to use his faith against him.

They went to the king and convinced him to make a decree. Imagine how you would feel if this letter showed up at your door:



A royal decree from King Darius,

The presidents, governors, princes, counselors and captains have issued a new royal statute. This is our firm decree: From this day forward, no man shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days. If a man has need to ask a petition, he shall ask only the King. He that does not heed these words shall be thrown into a den of lions.

Daniel got a letter just like that, sealed with a stamp from the king's ring. And Daniel knew he had a big decision to make. He could obey the king's new law, or he could obey God and continue to be faithful to Him. Daniel chose to obey God.

The princes and presidents were watching Daniel. And when they saw him kneel in prayer to God, they ran to the king to tell on him. When the king heard that it was Daniel who had broken his law, he was upset. All day, he tried to think of a way out of the law, so Daniel could avoid punishment. When the sun started to set, the princes and presidents came to the king and demanded that Daniel be punished.

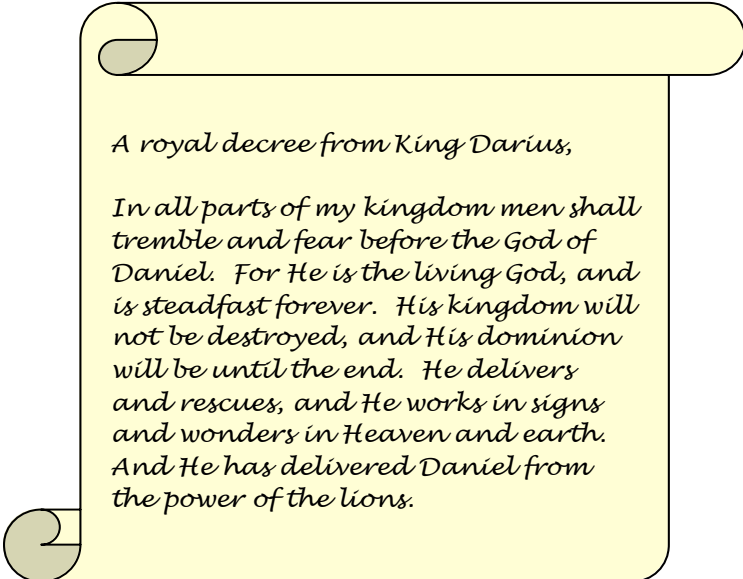
The king reluctantly commanded that they go get Daniel and throw him into the lion's den. The king told Daniel, "Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee" (Daniel 6:16). Then the lions' den was sealed with a stone. The king went back to his palace and spent the night fasting and hoping that Daniel would be delivered.

The next morning, the king got up very early and ran to the lions' den. He called out to Daniel, and to his delight, Daniel answered him. He told the king that God has sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths (Daniel 6:22), and that he was unharmed.

The king was excited that Daniel was safe. He pulled Daniel out of the lions' den, knowing that Daniel's faith in God and obedience to God had kept him safe.

The king then called for the princes and presidents who had accused Daniel and tricked the king into making the decree. Because of their evil actions (against Daniel and God), they were thrown into the lions' den and killed.

Then, the king wrote a new decree:



A royal decree from King Darius,

In all parts of my kingdom men shall tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God, and is steadfast forever. His kingdom will not be destroyed, and His dominion will be until the end. He delivers and rescues, and He works in signs and wonders in Heaven and earth. And He has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

Because of Daniel's obedience to God, an entire kingdom came to know the God's power and His love for His children.

GET REAL—*Apply God's Word to your life.*

Romans 5:19 says, "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."

This verse is talking about Jesus's obedience to death on the cross. The suffering that Jesus went through was God's plan, and even though it was hard, Jesus obeyed.

Look up Matthew 26:37-44. Write down the prayer of Jesus here: _____

Now underline the words that show that Jesus was obedient to God.

Sometimes, God will ask us to do things that we don't want to do. Sometimes, in order for God to bless us, we have to get out of our comfort zone and do hard things.

We have to have the same obedient spirit that Jesus had. We have to learn to say, "Not my will, but God's will be done."

What has God revealed to you today? Do you have an obedient spirit like Daniel did? Are you willing to sacrifice your will to see God's will be done? Use the space below to write down your thoughts.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

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