

LEARNING HOW TO TRUST GOD

Part 15 – What Does Faith Have To Do With Integrity? Hebrews 11:32

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*Hebrews 11:32-33 “And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets,³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of **lions**,...” (NIV)*

Outline of the chronological history of the Old Testament from Abraham to Malachi:

1. Patriarchs – Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph (2000 BC)
2. Egyptian bondage (1900-1500 BC)
3. Moses and Joshua – Promise Land (1500-1400 BC)
4. Dark ages of the Judges (1400-1000 BC)
5. Period of the Kings (Saul, David, Solomon, etc.) and early prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, etc.) (1000 – 586 BC)
6. Babylonian bondage (586 BC – 536 BC) (Ezekiel, **Daniel**, Esther)

7. Jews return / Jerusalem **rebuilt** from the ashes. (536 BC – 400 BC) (Ezra, Nehemiah, Malachi, etc.)

*Daniel 6:1-3 “It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps (governors) to rule throughout the kingdom, ² with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss. ³ Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his **exceptional** qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.” (NIV)*

*Faith is the trusting **obedience** to the revealed will of God.*

*The natural result of living in obedience to God will be the emergence of character and **integrity**.*

I. INTEGRITY IS A **MAGNET** THAT ATTRACTS OTHERS OF CHARACTER. (Daniel 6:1-3)

- A. *Daniel 6:3 “Then this Daniel began distinguishing himself among the commissioners and satraps because he possessed an **extraordinary spirit**, and the king planned to appoint him over the entire kingdom.” (NASB)*
- B. *Psalm 15:1-2 “O LORD, who may abide in Your tent? Who may dwell on Your holy hill? ² The person who walks with **integrity**, and lives in righteousness, and speaks truth in his heart.”*
- C. *Proverbs 2:7-8 “He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in **integrity**, ⁸ Guarding the paths of justice, and He preserves the way of His godly ones.”*
- D. *Proverbs 22:11 (NIV) “He who loves a **pure heart** and whose speech is gracious will have the king for his friend.” (NIV)*
- E. It isn't the amount of our talent or intelligence that will eventually determine what we accomplish in our life. It is who we are on the inside, our **integrity**, that will ultimately tell the story of our life.

II. LIVE A LIFE OF INTEGRITY AND THOSE WITHOUT IT WILL TRY TO BRING YOU **DOWN** TO THEIR LEVEL. (Daniel 6:4-9)

Daniel 6:4-5 “At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. ⁵ Finally these men said, “We will never find any

*basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his **God**." (NIV)*

B. Daniel 6:6 *“So the administrators and satraps went as a group to the king and said, "O King Darius, live forever! The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisors and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or man during the next thirty days, except you, O king, shall be thrown into the lion's den.”*

III. GOD CALLS US TO STAND FOR RIGHT EVEN IF WE HAVE TO STAND **ALONE.**
(Daniel 6:10)

A. Daniel 6:10 *“Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.” (NIV)*

B. John 15:20, *“Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will **persecute** you also.”*

C. 2 Timothy 3:12 - *“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted...”*

IV. GOD’S WORD TO THE ONE WITH INTEGRITY – “I WILL NEVER **LEAVE YOU NOR **FORSAKE** YOU.” (Daniel 6:19-27)**

A. Daniel 6:19-20 *“At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. ²⁰ When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?” (NIV)*

B. Daniel 6:22 *“My God sent His angel, and He shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in His sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king.” (NIV)*

C. Daniel 6:26-27 *“For He is the living God and He endures forever; His kingdom will not be destroyed, His dominion will never end. ²⁷ He rescues and He saves; He performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.*

