

## Daniel chapter 6

I like art. I often like to visit art gallery. There is a fairly large size oil on canvas painting in the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC. The title is Daniel in the Lions' Den. It was painted in 1614/1616. I think the painting is exaggerated that there are many lions around him in a small den with a small hole on the top of the den. Regardless, facing even one hungry lion in the den is danger enough. How can Daniel be so faithful and fearless?

### 1) Daniel is faithful in his daily life

#### a. Faithful to God includes your righteous conducts and holiness in your daily life

Faithful to God includes trust in His word, commands and will, and to act accordingly. Faithful to God is neither a one-time event nor an once a while event. It should be evidenced in your daily life. Daniel has displaced that in his duty. As shown in verses 3 and 4, his work has exceptional qualities, no corruption, trustworthy and not negligent.

#### b. Consistency in seeking God builds faithfulness

Building faith is also not an once a while event. It is more like a daily accumulation. Faith builds upon consistency in seeking God. In verse 10, it described Daniel as praying three times a day and giving thanks to God just as he had done before. If you truly pray three times a day and always give thanks to God would surely build your relationship with God. In addition, verse 20 described Daniel as "...whom you serve continually, ...". Faith comes when you close to God (daily interaction/communication), and knowing and obeying His will.

### 2) Daniel is faithful in a difficult trial

God wants us to do what is right. One shall stand firm on the truth even under high pressure. That takes courage and strong faith.

#### a. Be faithful needs courage

Daniel did not take the easy way out and abandon God even though he was at an old age. He has the courage to pray in front of the window after the decree had been published (verse 10). The threat of severe punishment did

not stop him. Punishment with a painful death by lion attack did not change his trust in God.

**b. Faithfulness is tested in difficult trial**

Trust God is much easier during the period of smooth life. However, your faithfulness is tested during difficult situations. Verse 23 states "...because he had trusted in his God."

**3) Faithfulness is rewarded**

God values your faithfulness. James 1:12 "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him." Psalms 37:28 "For the Lord loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones....".

**a. Daniel's example**

Daniel was fully protected. He has no wound (Verse 23). The King issued a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel (verse 26). This is a great testimony and a wonderful outcome to bring glory to God. Also, Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian (verse 28).

**b. Job and Stephen's example**

Job was faithful in his difficult trial although he was confused about God's will during the trial. Job 42:10 states the Lord restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before. Also, Job 42:16 states Job lived a hundred and forty years; he saw his children and their children to the fourth generation. Surely, Job received physical rewards.

Stephen's situation is different. He stood on the truth and pointed out the sins of the opposers. The opposers did not repent. He was stoned to death but the Lord was with Him (Acts 7:51-60). Crown of life is the reward for the faithful ones.

Today, you might face people or situations that can put you in the "lion den" such as in your work place or in relationship. You might feel you are in a losing situation. Will you still do the right things and be faithful? In conclusion, faithfulness has to be consistent. Strong faith builds with continuous intimate time with God. God rewards the faithful ones.



[Sir Peter Paul Rubens](#) (artist)  
Flemish, 1577 - 1640

## *Daniel in the Lions' Den*

c. 1614/1616

oil on canvas

overall: 224.2 x 330.5 cm (88 1/4 x 130 1/8 in.)

framed: 267.97 x 374.65 x 15.24 cm (105 1/2 x 147 1/2 x 6 in.)

framed weight: 113.399 kg (250 lb.)

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1965.13.1

On View: West Building, Main Floor - Gallery 45

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