

The Faith Of A Fifteen Year Old (1:1-21)

Introduction

1. The Old Testament is filled with examples worthy of our study and emulation. Such as Joseph with his stand for God in the house of Potiphar. Such as Joshua a great man of faith and conviction.
2. Another great example that will inspire us is Daniel. A young man of faith and courage to remain true to his convictions and as old man his faith sustained him through persecution...

I. Daniel's Faith As A "Fifteen Year Old"

- a. It Was A Bleak Day In The History of Israel
 - i. The beginning of Babylonian domination – Daniel 1:1-2
 - ii. This was the result of the people of Judah's ongoing disobedience (Duet 28:15; Isa 39:6)
- b. Daniel And Others Selected For Special Training
 - i. Many young men taken to serve Nebuchadnezzar – Daniel 1:3-7
 - ii. They had been chosen (young, handsome, smart, healthy etc.)
 - iii. They would be schooled as Babylonians and were given new names
- c. Daniel Makes A Decision
 - i. He “purposed in his heart” – Daniel 1:8
 - ii. He was committed to not defile himself with the king's food (1 Cor 10:20-22)
- d. How Daniel Remained True To His Commitment
 - i. He did it with politeness –Daniel 1:8b
 - ii. He did it with God's help – Daniel 1:9
 - iii. He did it through persistence – Daniel 1:10-11
 - iv. He did it with a willingness to test his faith – Daniel 1:12-15
- e. The Value of Such Faith Seen In Its Results
 - i. It affected the lives of others – Daniel 1:15-16
 - ii. God blessed Daniel and his three friends even more! – Daniel 1:17-21

II. Lessons And Application From Daniel's Faith

- a. How To Succeed In Keeping Our Commitment To The Lord
 - i. Be Polite (Pr 15:1), Seek God's Help (Psa 127:1-2), Be Persistent (Mt 7:7-11; Luke 18:1-8), Be Willing To Test Your Faith (Mal 3:10; John 7:16-17; Mt 6:31-34)
- b. Some Applications: “A Faith Away From Home”
 - i. Faith is shown in obedience – How will our school aged children be when they leave home? Will they have the faith of Daniel?
 - ii. How about our college bound children? Will they continue to pray, study and be faithful to the Lord? Will they have the same commitment as Daniel?
 - iii. Adults in the workplace when we are tempted compromise our convictions or lie for the boss will our faith give us courage to stand up for what is right? Will we have the faith of a fifteen year old?
 - iv. Those with unbelieving spouses with little moral support in the home will you have the discipline and persistence of Daniel? Will you have the “purpose of heart” that Daniel had?

Daniel's faith brought him obedience, courage, discipline and confidence in his life. Because of his faithfulness God blessed Daniel and gave him more than he could ever ask or dream (Eph 3:20). May we be inspired to have “purpose of heart” to not defile ourselves by the world but to be faithful to the Lord in all things!