

DANIEL' S STEADFAST FAITH

Daniel 6:19-28



Calvin Miller

“Security is never the friend of faith. It is peril that produces steadfastness.”

Daniel knew this to be true and was willing to sacrifice the security of life and limb because his heart was steadfast and immovable toward his God. Even though he had been faithful to king and country, this aged prophet faced the trial of a lifetime.

Men who displayed steadfastness in our history

Christopher Columbus

Henry Ford

The Wright brothers

Steadfastness is a level above faithfulness

Steadfastness is when you are faithful in
extreme times

William Barclay

"So often we have a kind of vague wistful longing that the promises of Jesus should be true. The only way to enter into them is to believe in them with the clutching intensity of a drowning man."

Life Is Not Always Fair

What happens to Daniel isn't fair

He's not delivered from the lions' den

He's delivered through the lions' den

David wrote "Yea, though I walk through the
valley of the shadow of death"

(Psalm 23:4)

Four things the steadfast believer can count on

I. Persecution is inevitable

We will have persecution because we are believers

You are a part of the kingdom of light; the kingdom of light will clash with the kingdom of darkness

Four things the steadfast believer can count on

I. Persecution is inevitable

Paul said, "All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution"

(2 Timothy 3:12)

Jesus told His disciples, "I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves"

(Matthew 10:16)

The steadfast Christian will be persecuted from three establishments

1. Organized religion

2. Secular society

A steadfast believer is like a 500-watt light bulb in a pitch black room—though it dispels the darkness, it also irritates people

3. Family

II. Trust is essential

Daniel was thrown into the lion's den

Daniel knew the punishment for praying to his
God; he did it anyway

Like Jesus, "he opened not his mouth

Isaiah 53:7, Matthew 27:14, Mark 15:15

II. Trust is essential

Polycarp, a Christian bishop in Smyrna

I have served Jesus Christ for 86 years. Never once has He denied me. He's never done me any wrong. How can I deny Him now?"

II. Trust is essential

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and a steadfast spirit within me"

Psalm 51:10

A good man "will not be afraid of evil tidings;
His heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord"

Psalm 112:7

II. Trust is essential

What would it take to move you from your faith, to stop trusting Jesus Christ?

Death of a child?

Lingering disease?

Loss of employment?

Unresolved conflicts?

Job lost everything and he blessed the Lord (see Job 1:21), he said, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him" (Job 13:15)

II. Trust is essential

Slogan of a church in Kansas City

"Wake up, sing up, pray up, and pay up, but never give up, or let up, or back up, or shut up, until the kingdom of Christ is built up in this world"

III. Deliverance is possible God delivers Daniel

Daniel had a good night's sleep; the king did not
Peter the apostle in the New Testament, slept
soundly in jail before his expected execution

Acts 12:5-19

III. Deliverance is possible God delivers Daniel

Deliverance doesn't always happen

Isaiah was cut in two

Peter was crucified upside down

Paul had his head cut off

III. Deliverance is possible God delivers Daniel

Daniel would live or die; either way
there's deliverance

Daniel had to wait all night for his deliverance

Your resolve must be:

"Our God is able to deliver us!"

IV. Influence is Unmistakable

Darius makes a decree

I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For he is the living God, and steadfast forever

IV. Influence is Unmistakable

Darius makes a decree

his kingdom is the one which will never be destroyed, and his dominion shall endure to the end. He delivers and rescues and he work signs and wonders in heaven and on earth who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

IV. Influence is Unmistakable

Daniel is one man who had influence over many kings and two empires

Magi showed up at the birth of Christ; perhaps Daniel tipped them off

God puts His right men in the right place

One or a few steadfast in their God can influence a nation, a family

IV. Influence is Unmistakable

Never underestimate the power of a godly life

Herod the Great put John the Baptist in prison

Herod feared John knowing

he was a righteous man

Mark 6:20

IV. Influence is Unmistakable

Do you want to be influential for the kingdom of
God?

"Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in
the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is
not in vain in the Lord"

1 Corinthians 15:58

IV. Influence is Unmistakable

The steadfast Christian is the
"keeper of the spring"

One life well-lived can impact family, a
neighborhood, a city, a nation

Jesus had 12 disciples and within one generation
the known world heard the gospel

You must know God to begin with to be
steadfast

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