Fervent Faith

Zanesville, OH | January 5, 2020 | John Pollard | Sermon Notes

**Foundational Scripture:** Dan. 6:1-27

**Intro**:

* The book of Daniel begins by telling us of the 1st phase of Judah’s captivity. Nebuchadnezzar after having besieged Jerusalem, removes the valuable vessels from the temple and he also orders that the best of the people be brought into Babylon to be a part of his service. It is here that we are first introduced to the young man, Daniel. He was among some noble young men of the sons of Judah that were taken into Babylonian Captivity (Dan. 1:1-4).
* King Nebuchadnezzar sought to brainwash these men and use them for his varied purposes but from early on Daniel and his friends were fervent in their faith. Daniel, in particular, realized that he needed to stay true to God; to be fervent in his faith. By the time we get to Daniel 6 we see him prospering in the Kingdom of Darius the Mede.
* The scriptures tell us he began distinguishing himself among the satraps and commissioners. These commissioners and satraps sought to find any ground of accusation against him because of their envy. However, they couldn’t find any evidence or corruption, inasmuch as he was faithful. Daniel was different. Daniel conducted himself in a very godly and responsible manner and this was no coincidence because he had carefully cultivated a **Fervent Faith**. What are some traits of **Fervent Faith**?

1. **Loyalty to God**
   1. This kind of faith is one that is all about a heart of loyalty and commitment. Daniel was loyal and committed to God in all aspects of his life, even in government affairs. Fervent faith recognizes that God is number one all the time regardless of what we are doing, where we are and who we are with.
   2. Such faith does not straddle the fence but chooses to serve God with all its heart, soul, mind and strength. This fervent faith rests on the assurance that God is greater than any who is against us and Him.
   3. This is the kind of faith that not only talks the talk but walks the walk. When the commissioners and satraps concocted a plan to have Daniel ousted (vv. 6-9), he didn’t change, and he didn’t succumb to the pressures (vv. 10-11, 13, 16, 20).
   4. The verses above all highlight Daniel’s unwavering, grounded, fervent faith in the true and living God. This is not a weak and shallow faith that straddles the fence (Josh. 24:15, 1 Kings 18:21).
   5. Daniel did not wait to see what the outcome would be but he immediately went to pray and confide in God. Fervent faith is about realizing that no matter what the situation is, the God who is for us is greater than those who are against us (2 Kings 6:16).
2. **Shining Example to Everyone**
   1. The individual with fervent faith is a shining example to everyone. It’s essentially impossible to miss this person because his/her faith is resounding and so enthusiastic in service to God.
   2. The commissioners and satraps were in agreement that they would not find any ground of accusation against Daniel unless it was against him with regard to the law of his God (v. 5).
   3. These men were very aware of Daniel’s faithfulness to God. Daniel’s loyalty and fervent faith was so obvious and predictable that the commissioners and satraps set a limit to their plan to get Daniel in trouble (v. 7, 12).
   4. His character, his personality, his faith distinguished him from everyone else around him and everyone was aware of it from the least to the greatest of them all (vv. 3-5, 11, 16, 20). Daniel in a very real sense a towering beam of light.
   5. Everywhere he went people saw what he was doing. They saw his good deeds. They saw his persistent godly character that was exemplified both in political affairs and in the affairs of God. They saw his faith! His fervent faith set him apart from everyone else (Matt. 5:14-16).
   6. The ultimate purpose of having fervent faith is to glorify God (vv. 26-27; Matt. 5:14-16). Daniel was letting his light shine during the darkest of times! Are you?
3. **Does not shy away when trouble/tragedy strikes**
   1. Let’s be honest. Daniel could have easily succumbed to the pressures around him and he wouldn’t have to worry about facing the consequences of his actions and possibly dying. It could have all been avoided.
   2. There could have been an easy resolution to satisfy all parties. But easy isn’t what Christianity is about. Sometimes it’s really hard and difficult (Matt. 7:14). But in times of great difficulties, persecution, pain and trouble, Daniel exemplifies to us what having fervent faith means. He prays! (vv. 10-11). But this isn’t just a coincidence.
   3. In 1 Kings 8:46-53, Solomon prays to God that if His people are taken into captivity, if they pray towards their land, then He will hear their prayers and Daniel does exactly this!
   4. What Daniel teaches us and what this faith means is that I will not give in, no matter how seemingly harmless the temptation, no matter how great the persecution, no matter how long lasting the pain is, I will not give in! Why? Because the God who is for us is greater than those that are against us! (Rom. 8:31-39).
   5. He is true, He is living, and He delivers on His promises and He acknowledges our faith just as He did with Daniel (vv. 21-23).

**Conclusion:** It is well established in the scriptures that God cannot be pleased without faith. Heaven cannot be had without faith. But the faith that will accomplish much is the passionate, grounded, loyal faith that Daniel exemplified in his life. **Fervent faith.** When we get to the end and we stand before God, it is the quality of faith that we have that will determine where we spend eternity. It won’t be the faith of your husband, wife, mom, dad, brother, sister, grandparents, friend etc. May the example of Daniel’s service to the Lord inspire us all to “purpose in our heart" not to defile ourselves by the things of this world. May we all learn from the example of Daniel, who exemplified what it means to seek first the will of God and to obey God rather than men; to be continually devoted to Him, loyal and committed all the days of our lives; to be grounded on the true and living word of God and to have **fervent faith!**