

**sGOING WITH GOD**  
**SERMON TWELVE**  
**HOW TO GO WITH GOD**

As we bring this series on the life of Daniel entitled “Going with God” to a close, I want to highlight some of the key secrets in Daniel’s life that enabled him to go with God and to experience God’s amazing blessing in his life. There are some parallels between Daniel’s life and the life of God’s servant Joseph. Both were called of God to serve him in difficult circumstances in pagan countries. Both were cruelly taken from their homes and handed over to foreign masters. Both went through times of testing being falsely accused and lied about, but both maintained godly conduct and character and became respected by the pagan leaders. Most of all God used them to bless his chosen people.

As we review Daniel’s life this morning, I want to highlight a number of characteristics that enabled Daniel and will enable us to go with God. The key factor whoever in Daniel’s life is found in Dan 1:8, “But Daniel resolved not defile himself..” He was not intimidated by powerful people or frightened by difficult circumstances. Like Martin Luther when he stood against the might of the Catholic Church he said, “Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me. Amen”. Going with God always begins with a choice we make to go with God. Without that we do not even begin. As I preach my second last sermon at this church there is no greater message that I can leave with you.

**1. HE BELIEVED IN A SOVEREIGN GOD**

On no less than three occasions 4:25, 32, 5:21 Daniel makes the statement, “The Most High rules in the

kingdom of men”. Daniel lived his life convinced of the fact that the rulers of this world did not in fact control the world but were always subject to the sovereign God he loved and served and in was in fact God who ruled over them. This I believe was the source of his courage and hope when times got tough. When he removed from his country and taken into exile in a foreign land, he trusted in the sovereignty of God. When he found himself in the lions den, when his friends were thrown into the fiery furnace it was his conviction that God rules and overrules that kept him going. If we truly believed in the sovereignty of God on a daily basis it would revolutionise our walk with God and our experience of life on a daily basis. It would set us free from so much fear and anxiety so that we could truly live lives as God intended us to. It would enable us to take risks and great steps of faith in going with God.

## **2. HE HAD A DISCIPLINED PRAYER LIFE**

Three times a day Daniel would draw aside and spent time in prayer with God. He made it a priority in his life. He knew his desperate need to remain connected to the source of his strength and knew that prayer was the primary means of staying connected. This did not just happen by itself but it was a choice and a decision that was made. When Daniel needed to know the interpretation to Nebuchadnezzar’s dream he prayed about it and when God answered him he prayed again and gave thanks to God for answered prayer in Dan 2. When his life was in danger he went home and prayed and the Lord delivered him from the lions in 6:10. For Daniel prayer was a priority. A W Tozer used to say, “Whatever God can do, faith can do, and whatever faith can do prayer can do, when it is offered in faith”. D L Moody once said, “I’d rather be able to pray than to be a great preacher, Jesus Christ never taught his

disciples to preach, but only how to pray”. Many people feel that they have very little to offer in terms of their giftedness for ministry. Some feel that they are too old. We can all pray and prayer, the most powerful force on earth, does still change things.

### **3. HE STUDIED THE WORD OF GOD AND BELIEVED IT**

When Daniel went into exile he took with him some scrolls of the Old Testament Scriptures and we know that he studied the writings of the prophet Jeremiah in Dan 9:2. It is clear that Daniel studied the Word of God to understand the will of God and therefore the Word of God played vital role in his life. It is through the word that God revealed that the people would be in captivity for seventy years and as a consequence of this Daniel began praying for God to forgive his people and fulfil His promises. The

Word became the rock on which he based his life and allowed him to withstand the attacks he faced.

### **4. HE HAD AN UNDERSTANDING OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

In Daniel 10 we are given a key passage for prayer warriors who wrestle in prayer and an important understanding of the nature of the spiritual warfare that we are engaged in. As we pray we unleash the armies of God in warfare and spiritual strongholds are brought down. We are given a wonderful picture of the angels Michael and Gabriel amongst many others fighting on our behalf, bringing God’s answers to our prayers to us and ministering to us. We need to acknowledge and recognise that we are in a war and we ignore this at our own peril. Paul reminds us of this in Eph 6:12, “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against

the authorities, against the powers of the dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms”.

### **5. HE SOUGHT ONLY TO GLORIFY GOD**

Throughout the amazing things that God was doing in Daniel’s life, Daniel always gave God the glory and never took it for himself. In Dan 2:28 he notes, “There is a God in heaven who reveals secrets...”. Daniel could have taken the credit for the interpretation of the visions and dreams but always gave God the glory. Exod 20:5 tells us that God is a jealous God and that he will share his glory with no one.

### **6. HE REALISED THAT HE HAD WORK TO DO**

Like Joseph in Egypt Daniel did not bemoan his lot in life but knew that God had a plan and a purpose for him and that God had work for him to do. He did his work well, he

was a faithful and dependable servant and even his enemies couldn’t find anything to criticise. God honoured him for this as did the rulers by promoting him and giving more and more authority and influence. Daniel did the work God told him to do well, and God promoted him. This should be our approach even to our secular jobs. Success is not in the hands of your bosses but in the hands of God.

### **7. HE WAS TACTFUL AND CONSIDERATE**

Daniel exerted considerable influence during the reign of four kings, and yet he never resorted to force or threats. When they did not want to eat the food dedicated to idols he did not make a big show but tactfully asked that they be excused and then trusted God to make the test successful. Daniel never argued with or disrespected the lifestyle of his pagan masters. He respected their offices and spoke

respectfully to them. I believe this was a huge witness to these unbelievers and had a great influence on them.

### **8. HE LIVED UP TO HIS NAME**

Finally, the last characteristic of Daniel was that he lived up to his name which means “God is my judge”. Daniel lived his life before the all-seeing God and did things to please Him. D L Moody once noted of Daniel’s life, “Daniel thought more of his principles than he did of earthly honour or esteem of men. Right was right with him. He was going to do right today and let the morrows take care of themselves. That firmness of purpose, in the strength of God, was the secret of his success”. Philip P Bliss one of Moody’s associates expressed this truth in a song, “Dare to be a Daniel”. The chorus says, “Dare to be a Daniel  
Dare to stand alone

Dare to have a purpose firm

Dare to make it known”.

Will you dare to be a Daniel and go with God?