

Message Notes

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Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Hebrews 11:32-33 (Daniel 1 & 6)

Date: February 12, 2017

Bible Focus: Hebrews 11:32-33

Current Series: Daring Faith

Message Title: Practicing Faith

Hebrews 11:32-33 - And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, ³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions.

Daniel 1:3-8 - Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring in some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility—⁴young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. ⁵The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service. ⁶Among these were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. ⁷The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego. ⁸But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.

People of daring faith...

1. Say _____

2. Say _____

Daniel 6:10 - Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

Daniel 6:19-23 - At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. ²⁰When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?" ²¹Daniel answered, "O king, live forever! ²²My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king." ²³The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

1. When you look at your life, how have professing faith and practicing faith played out in you?
2. Did you, as a young adult, make any kind of faith commitment? How did it play out in your student years?
3. What faith convictions do you have, if any? In what ways have your faith convictions both helped you and challenged you in your relationship with God? Have you drawn some lines that have made life interesting?
4. It's obvious that Daniel's prayer life was the fruit of His unceasing commitment to pray. He truly believed in the importance of prayer. What other traits do you see in his life (as seen in Daniel 6) that are the outworking of his faith commitments?
5. In what ways do you see Daniel's faith and trust in God working out before, during, and after the lions' den?
6. Have there been times in your life when you'd say God delivered you from a death chamber? In what way? What has since come out of your deliverance?
7. What do you hope to take with you from this study? How can this practicing faith focus help you grow in faith?