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(The following sermon notes are contributed by Pastor David O. Cofield. Thanks Pastor David for the great work. You can check out his blog at www.energizingword.org)

Confidence in a Crisis

Daniel 6

This is the most familiar of all of Daniel's stories. Lion's den. A new government under Darius had taken over and just like the old regime, he makes an image of himself for all to pray toward. But Daniel won't do it and his consequence is being thrown into the lions den.

There are many lions we all face: bitterness, anger, relational, parenting, financial, disease, aging. We live in a dog-eat-dog (lion-eat-lion) world.

May be we get to the point that we think the crisis will be over, but I remind you Daniel is at least in his late 80's here.

How can we face it with confidence?

I. Confidence is seen with a thankful attitude.

Verse 3— Daniel had a good spirit or attitude. This is not "Spirit," but spirit. He had a good attitude about him.

Verse 10—Daniel was giving thanks and the Bible says, "he knelt." Ephesians 5:20 "Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father..."

Philippians 4:6 "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;"

When you face a crisis, open your mouth and thank God. There is power in the spoken Word over your own live.

Life is not fair adding to the fact that the devil hates God and His followers.

II. Confidence is strengthened with a consistent walk.

This is the first time we learn about Daniel's daily walk with God and we are very impressed, but not shocked.

The King noted in verse 20—"the God you continually serve." Does our friends, family note that we walk "to a different drum beat?"

Psalm 55: 17 "Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice."

Why did he do this? Praying toward Jerusalem is in obedience to II Chron. 6:36-39.

He knew the Word of God.

His walk produced purity.—verse 4

His walk produced power. - we'll see this in a moment

His walk produced protection. - verse 23

III. Confidence is solidified with complete trust in God.

The lions would be purposely starved to be used as executioners. And note in verse 17 that over the cave a stone was rolled, the king's signet was attached so that nothing could be changed. Remember another time that a stone was rolled over a cave, the king's secured the place so nothing could be changed.

This is a foreshadowing of the resurrection in the OT.

Daniel faced the lions knowing well the Lion of Judah.

God sent an angel to his defense. If one angel can slay 185,000 Assyrians, surely one angel can take care of a group of lions.

Doesn't mean protection that you won't ever go through trials.

Daniel missed the fiery furnace, but not the den of lions. Isaiah was sawn in half, Paul's head was severed and Peter was crucified upside down.

But Daniel had "no injury -wound." The word means "to ruin...to hurt, injure."

Psalm 55:18 (NIV) "He ransoms me unharmed from the battle waged against me..."

We may be engaged in the battle, but we don't have to be wounded by the battle.

Notice the reason why no "wound" was found. Verse 23 - "because he believed in his God."

II Timothy 4: 17—Paul was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. He had been left alone humanly, but God was with him and delivered him.

Ernest Wadsworth—"Pray for a faith that will not shrink when washed in the waters of affliction."

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