



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Developing An Excellent Spirit (Daniel 6:3)

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Dave DePue / (785) 249 7604 / www.capitolcom.org / dave.depue@capitolcom.org

SPECIAL: Senator Dick Kelsey will teach the morning Bible study on March 9. This is one of Dick's favorite teaching topics. Dave will be at the annual Shepherd's Conference much of that week. Linda Kentch will lead the discussion in the noon class. This lesson focuses on our need to have an "excellent spirit" in all we do!

INTRODUCTION

How do we develop an excellent spirit? The wisdom of Solomon coaches us: **"Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man"** (Proverbs 3:3-4).¹

Most students of the Bible notice that the Scriptures are brutally honest in the accounts of God's men and women. Mistakes and failures are recounted along with any successes. Only two of God's leading men avoid any appearance of evil. These are Joseph (Genesis, chapters 30 through 50) and Daniel (Daniel, chapters 1 through 12). Note that each transitioned from being captive in a foreign land, then subjected to severe trials and finally to be honored by God and man. The school of adversity does seem to graduate high achievers!

DANIEL'S EXCELLENT SPIRIT

*Daniel 6:1-3 (New King James Version) It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty satraps, to be over the whole kingdom; and over these, three governors, of whom Daniel was one, that the satraps might give account to them, so that the king would suffer no loss. Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm.*²

Daniel developed a servant leadership style. He started by being humble yet committed to his Godly values. As a youth; **Daniel sought permission from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself with the king's food (Daniel 1:8)**. God granted Daniel **...favor and compassion in sight of the commander.... (Daniel 1:9)**. God honors those who stand by His Word. People are attracted to those who are humble and sincere. Daniel said to the overseer: **"Please test your servants for ten days, and let us be given some vegetables to eat and water to drink"** (Daniel 1: 12).

WISDOM FROM GOD

*Daniel 1:20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.*³

God blesses His followers with the wisdom from His Word. King Nebuchadnezzar examined Daniel and his three friends and found their answers better than the others who did not have God's help. Do you invest enough time in God's Word to gain His wisdom? The alternative is to strive, sometimes fail, and then regroup to gain your own hard-won experience.

FAVOR OF GOD AND MAN

*Daniel 2:48-49 Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon. Also Daniel petitioned the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego over the affairs of the province of Babylon; but Daniel sat in the court of the king.*⁴

BIBLE STUDIES

LEADERS/LEGISLATORS: WEDNESDAYS 7 -7:50 AM, CAPITOL ROOM 142 SOUTH

STAFF & GUESTS: WEDNESDAY S 12:05 – 12:55 PM, CAPITOL ROOM 142 SOUTH

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Daniel's next appointment was as governor over all of Babylon. Upon Daniel's request his three friends were appointed chief administrators over the province. The king certainly recognized God's favor in Daniel. Nebuchadnezzar said: ***"...in him is the Spirit of the Holy God..."*** (Daniel 4:8).⁵

Daniel was also promoted to governor by the next ruler after the Medes and Persians conquered Babylon. This came as a result of the ***extraordinary spirit*** that the king observed in him (Daniel 6:3). Do people recognize God's Spirit in you?

CONCLUSION

Daniel followed God's teaching and invested time in prayer. He and his friends prayed for revelation of the mystery of the king's vision (Daniel 2:28). Daniel's reputation as a praying man was widely known among the other ranking officials. ***Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and supplication before his God (Daniel 6:11)***. Do you get your inspiration through time with our Lord? Are you and I known by our relationship to the God of Heaven?

¹ The Holy Bible. New International Version (Biblica). 2010.

² The Holy Bible. New King James Version (Thomas Nelson). 1982.

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Ibid