

STANDING STRONG

Sunday, October 7, 2018
10:30 AM

In Daniel Chapter 1 we talked about Eroding Foundations

1. Internal Desires
2. The Flow of Cultural Pressure
3. Carnal Christianity
4. Fear of Failure
5. Cost Compromises

In Chapter 2 we said we need to Look to God

1. For Hope
2. For Answers
3. For Wisdom
4. For Strength
5. In All Seasons and All Circumstances

In Chapter 3 we saw that Stand Strong mean's Not Bowing Down

1. Don't Bow Down... No matter how BIG the ISSUES may seem
2. Don't Bow Down... No matter how POWERFUL the VOICES may be
3. Don't Bow Down... No matter how LOUD the NOISES may be
4. Don't Bow Down... No matter how VAST the MAJORITY may be
5. Don't Bow Down... No matter how HARSH the CONSEQUENCES can Be
6. Don't Bow Down... No matter how BEAUTIFUL the IMAGE may seem
7. Don't Bow Down... No matter how unCERTAIN DELIVERANCE may seem

Chapter 4 taught us to have a greater perspective of Humility

1. towards God,
2. towards ourselves,
3. and toward others

Daniel chapter 5 Teaches us the importance of living a life of Repentance

1. Awareness of Sin and its consequences
2. A Remorse for Sin
3. A Confession of your sin
4. A Desire to leave sin behind
5. A Hunger for more of Jesus
6. Acceptance of the work Christ has done for us
7. A growing hatred of sin and love of Christ

Daniel Chapter 6

1. Trust God when things are changing around you
2. Trust God when those around you seek to tear you down
3. Trust God when things begin to get crazy
4. Trust God and keep on praying
5. Trust God when things go from crazy to horrible
6. Trust God even when your fate seems sealed
7. Trust God and let Him deal with your enemies

Daniel 7-8 - Understanding God's Plan

In order to gain that understanding there are four important principles we need to discuss

1. Relationship Required
2. Receiving Revelation
3. Repeated Reexamination
4. Resist Reinterpretation

Daniel Chapter 9 - Standing Strong Through Prayer

Pray with...

1. Penitence
2. Perspective
3. Purpose
4. Power
5. Passion
6. Persistence
7. Patience

Daniel Chapter 10 - Spiritual Warfare

Daniel 10 New International Version (NIV)

Daniel's Vision of a Man

10 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a revelation was given to Daniel (who was called Belteshazzar). Its message was true and it concerned a great war.^[a] The understanding of the message came to him in a vision.

2 At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. **3** I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over.

4 On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river, the Tigris, **5** I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. **6** His body was like topaz, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude.

7 I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; those who were with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves. **8** So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless. **9** Then I heard him speaking, and as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground.

10 A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. **11** He said, "Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you." And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling.

12 Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. **13** But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. **14** Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come."

15 While he was saying this to me, I bowed with my face toward the ground and was speechless. **16** Then one who looked like a man^[b] touched my lips, and I opened my mouth and began to speak. I said to the one standing before me, "I am overcome with anguish because of the vision, my lord, and I feel very weak. **17** How can I, your servant, talk with you, my lord? My strength is gone and I can hardly breathe."

18 Again the one who looked like a man touched me and gave me strength. **19** “Do not be afraid, you who are highly esteemed,” he said. “Peace! Be strong now; be strong.”

When he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, “Speak, my lord, since you have given me strength.”

20 So he said, “Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come; **21** but first I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. (No one supports me against them except Michael, your prince.

Daniel chapter 10 gives us a picture of the spiritual warfare that’s going on all around us and to which we are mostly oblivious. when we start talking about spiritual warfare people have one of two reactions one is that fear they don’t want to think about it or discuss it or they’re afraid of what is unseen and of the power of the enemy. The second reaction that I have observed is one of making spiritual warfare weird. They pull out their spiritual formulas, Their spiritual warfare techniques, spiritual maps, identifying principalities and spiritual strongholds and proceed to teach people how they can win at spiritual warfare.

Now, I’m not saying that when used properly there is no value in these things. But Why do we want to make spiritual warfare so complicated and he do we think that so much of the success of spiritual warfare depends on us. If there’s one thing I want you notice about the spiritual warfare that is described in Daniel chapter 10 is that the outcome head little to do with Daniel. Yes, Daniel prayed and yes prayer has power. And yes the Angel was dispatched in response to Daniel’s prayer. But the battle that is described here is not being fought by Daniel himself But by spiritual beings angels and principalities. In fact, Daniel describes Himself as weak, without strength and totally dependent upon this spiritual being sent from heaven - a posture it would do us well to imitate

The angel supplies Daniel with three main messages in response to his lack of strength

- You are highly esteemed (2x)
- Do not be afraid (2x)
- Peace, be strong, be strong

It seems to me that one of the keys to Spiritual warfare is comprehending these great assurances. Over and over again the scripture is filled with this word of encouragement and strength.

To Abraham

To Hagar
To Jacob
To Moses
To The Children of Israel
To Joshua
To David
To Elijah
To Jehoshaphat
To Isaiah
To Jeremiah
To Mary
To Joseph
To The Disciples
To The Apostle Paul

Why, because fear is one of the main weapons of the enemy. Fear will paralyze you, fear causes us to retreat, fear causes us not to fight or the purposes of God. When we are afraid, he knows that we will not step out in faith to challenge him so he wins by default. That's why Hebrews 10 says we are to live by faith and not shrink back.

In 2 Corinthians 2:11 Paul says we should not be ignorant or unaware of the devils schemes. Fear is one of those schemes.

Peter 5:8-9 New International Version (NIV)

8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. **9** Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

So how do we resist being driven in the wrong direction when it comes to Spiritual warfare?

1. Our God is bigger

Daniel 10:1-9 New International Version (NIV)

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What a description.... And this was just angel!!!!

The Lord of Hosts, The Lord Almighty, The Lord Mighty to Save

Isaiah 47:4 New International Version (NIV)

4 Our Redeemer—the Lord Almighty is his name—is the Holy One of Israel.

1 John 4:4 Christian Standard Bible (CSB)

4 You are from God, little children, and you have conquered them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

2 Kings 6:8-17 New International Version (NIV)

Elisha Traps Blinded Arameans

8 Now the king of Aram was at war with Israel. After conferring with his officers, he said, “I will set up my camp in such and such a place.”

9 The man of God sent word to the king of Israel: “Beware of passing that place, because the Arameans are going down there.” **10** So the king of Israel checked on the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he was on his guard in such places.

11 This enraged the king of Aram. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, “Tell me! Which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?”

12 “None of us, my lord the king,” said one of his officers, “but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom.”

13 “Go, find out where he is,” the king ordered, “so I can send men and capture him.” The report came back: “He is in Dothan.” **14** Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city.

15 When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. “Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?” the servant asked.

16 “Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”

17 And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.” Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Scripture remains reminds us of the true stature of the enemy

Isaiah 14:14 New International Version (NIV)

14 I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.”

Isaiah 14:16 New International Version (NIV)

16 Those who see you stare at you, they ponder your fate: “Is this the man who shook the earth and made kingdoms tremble,

1 Samuel 17:45 New International Version (NIV)

45 David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

Goliath was big, but David knew that God was bigger...

2. Our weapons are stronger

Isaiah 54:17 New International Version (NIV)

17 no weapon forged against you will prevail,
and you will refute every tongue that accuses you.

This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord,
and this is their vindication from me,”
declares the Lord.

2 Corinthians 10:4 King James Version (KJV)

4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

Ephesians 6:10-18 New International Version (NIV)

The Armor of God

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. **11** Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. **12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. **13** Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. **14** Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, **15** and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. **16** In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. **17** Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

in addition to the other weapons we've already talked about - like the word of God and prayer - the fellowship of the believers, the unity of believers is a weapon that God has given us to defeat the enemy

Leviticus 26:8 New International Version (NIV)

8 Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand, and your enemies will fall by the sword before you.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 New International Version (NIV)

9 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor:

10 If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

11 Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone?

12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

3. The outcome has already been guaranteed in our favor

Romans 8:31 New International Version (NIV)

31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Romans 8:37 New International Version (NIV)

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

The battle belongs to the Lord

2 Chronicles 20:15 New International Version (NIV)

15 He said: "Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the Lord says to you: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's.

And that is exactly the case when it comes to Spiritual Warfare

We have the assurance that the battle has already been won. When the Angel spoke to Daniel it was from a position of victory and that's what Jesus words on the cross tell us too. IT IS FINISHED

Colossians 2:15 New International Version (NIV)

15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Romans 16:20 New International Version (NIV)

20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.
The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.