

Objective: to enable every believer to hold on to their faith in the time of testing.

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NLBC a.m.

Holding On To Your Faith In The Time of Testing

Dan. 6

Introduction

Every believer is meant to *live* by hearing and embracing the Word of the Lord—spoken and written. Matt. 4:4. The *spoken* comes out of mouth of God in the daily journey of life. The Written Word of God, the Bible, was *spoken* by God to men of old, who were to write it down as they heard it. God watched over the written Word to preserve its accuracy so that we could *live* by it also. If you fail to live *by the Word*, you will die in numerous ways without it.

The Pressure of Circumstances and the Attack of Satan

Every word from God is *tested*—i.e. the vessel into which that Word comes, is tested. Mt. 13:21; Heb. 11:17; Luke 11:16; Ps. 105:19 NKJV. This simply means that once you receive a word from God, you enter a ‘season of testing.’ It is that ‘season of testing’ that both develops your character and your faith as well as makes you ‘approved’ in God’s eyes as a ‘faithful’ believer. Rom. 16:10; James 1:12; 1 Thes. 2:4.

God allows the ‘pressure of circumstances’ and Satan’s attack against you, in this time or ‘season of testing.’ Satan’s attack, as it has been since the beginning, is always upon the ‘word you have received.’ Gen. 3:1. Satan attacked the ‘word of the Lord’ that was given to Adam and Eve. “Did God really say?”

The same occurs in Daniel 6:5. Daniel had received the ‘word of the Lord,’ to only serve and worship, Jehovah God. Satan used men to plot to destroy Daniel, by ‘attacking the very word that Daniel’s life was based upon.’

Pressure Comes...

Every person discovers and experiences various times of pressure—none, little, great, and the seemingly overwhelming.

Pressure – can be defined as, “the continual force exerted upon a person in order to persuade.”

If Satan can use opposing, contradictory, and difficult circumstances to greatly **pressure** you and bring His attacks against your mind, body, family and stuff...to get you to **surrender** your faith to **doubt**, he has won, and you forfeit the blessing and reward of your faith.

We see this so clearly with the first generation of Israel. They let go of the promise (the Word of the Lord) and stayed in the wilderness. They were still God’s covenant people, but they lost out. The journey of life is full of these defining seasons of choice—to **believe** and receive, or **doubt** and do without.

The Daniel Six Test

Several characteristics emerge from this story to consider as it parallels your own life-journey:

- Daniel’s life seemed to be going well and he was blessed – Dan. 5:29
- One fine day, (not), the attack came against the Word of the Lord that was at the centre of Daniel’s relationship with God – Dan. 6:5. A Satanically-inspired trap.

- Daniel discovered/discerned the trap against himself. Dan. 6:16. You are meant to **discern** the trap and ‘stand in the storm’ of negative and contradictory circumstances.
- Daniel took to prayer and **thanksgiving**. Dan. 6:10. When you take to prayer, you are speaking to the **Source** of the Word that you live by. What is your usual **initial or first** response to trouble? Is it prayer, thanksgiving, and declaration? When you are giving thanks, you are ruling over what would rule over you!
- Others discovered Daniel ‘speaking the right stuff’ in prayer and thanksgiving. Dan. 6:11. Will others discover you saying what you should say in the time of your/our testing? Your *confession is your inheritance*. Num. 13:30-33. Shout what you believe, not what circumstances, the Devil and feelings say!
- Pressure increases as Daniel is thrown into the lion’s den. Dan. 6:16. Sometimes the **threat** of impending or possible circumstances gets unbelievably greater. That **threat**, *seems* to be your *reality*. It is **not**!
- Strangely, the ‘word of the Lord’ comes again to Daniel from an unusual source, as he plummeted towards the lions. Dan. 6:16. God comes to remind us, in the season of great **threat**, Who He is, What He can do, and the Word that does not lie!
- Circumstances **seemed** unchangeable! Dan. 6:17. We must endure when it seems our situation is unchangeable. We must not give up—God is greater than all our circumstances!
- Daniel had to endure the **night** season. Dan. 6:18, 19. There is a **time period** through which we *must endure*.

- The world is waiting for the answer to the question that Darius posed to Daniel—“...has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you?” Dan. 6:20. What will your/our answer be?
- Angels attended Daniel in the den. **Angels** are with you/us in our ‘den of extreme testing.’ Dan. 6:22.
- Daniel had an **appointment** with the ‘lift.’ Dan. 6:23. You, too have an appointment with the ‘lift,’ that will take you to the top floor of deliverance, blessing, joy and great testimony! Push the ‘button’ of trust/faith every day. Dan. 6:23. Dan. 6:26-28.