Dare to be a Daniel!

Daniel was an extraordinary man, not because he was different from other men, but because he knew God and trusted that God was in control. He knew that by serving Him, rather than seeking the approval of man, he could stand strong in the midst of incredible loss and vital threat.

Victor Frankl, in his celebrated book, *Man's Search for Meaning*, maintained that man cannot avoid suffering but can, indeed, cope with it. Frankl was a Jewish prisoner in four different Nazi concentration camps while his wife and other close relatives were killed. Frankl was convinced that it is not our circumstances that make or break us, but how we respond to those circumstances. (Highly recommended reading – over 10 million copies sold in four languages.)

Daniel was such a man. He trusted God and *on the basis of that,* survived the defeat of his homeland and his enslavement in a foreign nation. His strongest keys:

a. he kept trusting God when he could not see the outcome

b. he did not fear death, even imminent death, at the hands of his
captors.

Daniel, and his three friends trusted God, NOT merely for life and deliverance, but whether the events lead to life or death – Daniel 3:17, 18:

If it be *so*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the
furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O
king. But *even* if *He does* not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are
not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you
have set up." (NASB)

There are many things that can enslave a person, but fear of death is the one that has enslaved more people than any other single factor. The author of Hebrews focuses on that specific issue in Hebrews 2:14, 15,

Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself
likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might
render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the
devil, and *might free those who through fear of death were
subject to slavery all their lives*. (NASB, emphasis supplied)

Daniel's circumstances did *not create* his faith and courage, they simply *revealed* them. Daniel was a man of God from the beginning. His courage was based on his trust of God and his faith that God is in control. ***Daniel simply continued to live a life of faith that had begun in his native Jerusalem and continued into his captivity. Daniel knew a deep reality: We are not physical beings having a spiritual experience – we are spiritual beings having a temporary physical experience here on earth!***

In what is your trust? What (or whom) do your fear? Is there any fear that has enslaved you, personally? Stand up. Stand strong. Have the courage to be a Daniel, no matter what!

- Ray Wallace