

Even when you do everything right in life, you can still find yourself in a "Lion's Den" of Difficulty. What every Christian needs to learn is how to become...

LION DEN PROOF

ESTABLISHING A HEART BOLDER THAN A LION'S ROAR

Reading Portion: Daniel 6:1-5

Daniel 6:3 (NKJV) ³Then 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.

Daniel 6:21 - 23 (NKJV) ²¹Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! ²²My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you." ²³Now the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and **no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God.**

INTRODUCTION

A. **You can become TOO MUCH for your trials to handle!**

- Daniel's spirit was "TOO MUCH" for his circumstances.
- "because an excellent spirit was in him..."
- "**Excellent**" (Heb = 'Yaw-thar') "to EXCEED, plenteous, over-flow, burst boundaries, be TOO MUCH!"

- Daniel's spirit was "too much" it "exceeded" his trials, it "burst the boundaries" of a Lion's Den!
- We pray the wrong things: we pray "remove this trial", God says: **James 1:2-4**
- Pray to be made Strong and complete

B. **Daniels spirit brought him up out of his trial with victory.**

- You and I have the Lord's life in our spirit (1 Cor 6:17) and we too can have a spirit stronger than our trials.
- Have a spirit built like Noah's ark: it will rise above the judgement in the earth.
- Daniel had developed an excellent spirit (Daniel ad joined God's "Fitness club")

C. **You can develop a Bold spirit and intimidate the devil!**

- The righteous are as bold as a Lion: Prov 28:1
- Is 31:4

D. **God is looking for those who will develop an "excellent spirit" and "distinguish" themselves.**

- People in the world distinguish themselves with money, power, fame, education, etc.
- But what interests God is our spirit: John 4:24
- Churches are "spirit-education centers". Ministry is spirit development.
- Your spirit is the fruit bearing part of the Vine. (Gal 5:22-23)

E. **Daniel is a type of Christ, raised from the trial of the cross in resurrection.**

- Ps 22:12-21
- In Christ we enjoy a life that is "Lion Den Proof"!
- Rom 6:4-5

F. **You WILL end up in a Lion's Den** (if you live for God)... **So prepare yourself now...**

- (6:4) 120 people could not find a charge against Daniel. He was beyond reproach... YET he ended up in a severe trial.
- Even if you are 100% without fault, you can end up in a Lion's den. It is not about punishment, but development.
- Even though Daniel was above reproach... he ended up in the Lion's Den!

How to Prepare yourself for your "Lion's Den" Experiences of Life

1. WHAT TO DO BEFORE YOU END UP IN A LION'S DEN...

"... Daniel distinguished himself... because an excellent spirit was in him..." (Daniel 6:3)

¹⁶I say then: Walk in the Spirit..." (Gal 5:16)

THERE ARE SPIRITUAL PREPARATIONS BEFORE YOU FIND YOURSELF IN A LIONS DEN...

A. **Know You have an Adversary** (1 Peter 5:8-9)

- 1 Peter 5:8 - 9 (NKJV) *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world."*

B. **Know you have an ADVOCATE before the Father to act on your behalf.**

- In book of Job satan could come to the throne of God and accuse and condemn God's servants (Job 1:6-12). He had legal access because of Adam's high treason.
- Now Jesus has cleansed the very heavens Hebrews 9:22-24 and is our Advocate and Intercessor before God (Hebrews 9:22-24).
- So what happened to Job cannot happen to you. Job longed for a mediator, but he had none. (Job 9:33) His dream is our reality. Today, we have Jesus as our Mediator making intercession for us! (1 Timothy 2:5)

C. **Have a PURPOSED Heart... You will serve God** (Dan 1:8).

- *"But Daniel **purposed in his heart** that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself."*
- A decided heart to obey God's word

- Daniel had a purposed heart
- Decision = de-cision **"to cut off from"**
- We don't know how to make **decisions**. Most of what we have is **preferences**, but that is not strong enough to get you out of a lions den.
- Having convictions = unquestioned commands to your soul
- Having a fixed heart ps 57:7 *"My heart is **fixed**, O God, my heart is **steadfast**; I will sing and give praise."*
- Put word first place in life

D. **Commit to a Life of Communion and Spiritual Wisdom (1:16-20)**

E. **Keep a life of prayer (2:16-18)**

- some believers live with this as a last resort tactic
- practice in daily good days to prepare for emergencies.
- Daniel knew how to hear from God (2:19, 28; 4:8)
- In everything *Phil 4:6*
- I did the math and asked myself, "How many times would Daniel have prayed if he prayed three times a day for 85 years?" The answer comes out to over 93,000 prayers!
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F. **Be a Praiser (2:19b-20)**

- Ps 147:1 – it is good to you
- Is your soul's "weed and feed"
- It stills the avenger (ps 8:2)

G. **Develop an excellent spirit (5:11-12)**

- What produces the quality of a persons spirit?

- What we commune with and what we speak out of our mouth.
- Spirit = a production center

2. WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU ARE IN THE LION'S DEN...

Psalms 5:8 (NKJV) "Lead me, O LORD, in Your righteousness because of my enemies; Make Your way straight before my face."

A. **Remember: However you ended up in the Lions Den, righteousness will deliver you!**

- Prov 11:4 – *"Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death."*
- It is a righteousness not earned under law, but received through grace: 2 Cor 5:21
- **Dan 6:22**
- The only ground "lions" have is what is unrighteous in you. If you stand in Christ's righteousness you are shielded: Eph 6:14.
- Righteousness is your force field in the Lion's den.
- It will give you a bold heart unafraid of the Lion's roar.
- Rev 12:11

B. **Keep doing what you know to do (6:10-11, 16)**

- *10Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room,*

*with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, **as was his custom** since early days.*

- V. 16 - *Your God, whom you serve **continually...***
- Don't stop now! Keep your spirit active, alive, functioning.
- Under oppression of the enemy there is a tendency to let it become passive, weak, despondent.
- See Dan 9:1-4 – see how Danile stayed active in spiritual disciplines.
- Take control of the QUESTIONS you are asking yourself.

C. Rely on divine resources (6:22a)

- *"My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me..."*
- God has a supernatural answer to your situation
- You have ngels = put them to work for you
- Entertain a miracle thought!

D. Maintain righteousness (6:22b)

- Righteousness as conduct means "right-acted-ness" right functioning, right USE of every part of your being (mind, will, emotions, body).
- Rom 6:12-13
- Order yourself right and the universe will follow.

E. Keep your mouth shut!

- Notice Daniel did not say anything until after God delivered him. He kept his mouth shut!

F. Faith it through (6:23)

- Heb. 11:33
- Faith isn't faith until it is all you have left to hang onto.
- Believe "even if" it doesn't work out. (Dan 3:17-18)

3. KNOW THE INVISIBLE WEAPONS OF YOUR WARFARE...

2 Corinthians 10:4 (NKJV) ⁴For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

A. We have invisible spiritual weapons to avail ourselves of.

- 2 Cor 6:4-6

B. Victory begins with the Name of Jesus on our lips and is consummated with the Character of Christ in our heart (*The place of Immunity from the enemy*)

C. Use the Name, the Blood and the Word.

- The Name for your identity
- The blood for your guilt
- The Word for your wisdom

D. Daniel's Invisible weapons:

1. Greatly Loved by God (*10:11*)
2. Power in prayer (*10:12*)

3. Angels of protection (v. 16-19)
 - Heb 1:13-14
 - Psalm 91:11
4. A Spirit of wisdom and understanding (1:17)

4. WALKING WATCHFULLY IN A WORLD OF "CROUCHING TIGERS AND HIDDEN DRAGONS"

1 Peter 5:7 - 9 (NKJV) ⁷casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. ⁸Be sober, be vigilant; ⁸because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

A. We live in a world of "crouching tigers and hidden dragons"

- "... your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."
- Job 1:6-7

B. God loves you like He loved Daniel and wants to protect you from the Lion's Den.

- Notice the verse that comes before the warning: ⁷casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

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- C. **Be "Sober" and "Vigilant" because you have an enemy.**
 - Jesus calls us to a life of watchfulness: Luke 21:34-36
- D. Resist satan in Faith. (1 Pet 5:9)

5. OBTAIN YOUR SPIRITUAL PROMOTIONS

1 Peter 5:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰But ¹⁰may the God of all grace, who called ¹⁰us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.

- A. **Daniel was promoted: Dan. 6:25-28.**
 - The result of successfully making it through the lions den is the spiritual promotion that results.
 - Diamonds are just coal transformed by pressure.
- B. **1 Peter 5:10. God's grace will perfect, establish, strengthen and settle you!**
 - *Perfect* = to complete thoroughly, to repair, adjust, restore
 - *Establish* = to set fast, to turn resolutely in a certain direction, steadfastly set
 - *Strengthen* = reinforce until super strong
 - *Settle* = consolidate, ground so as unmovable,

C. James 1:2-4. **Be perfect, complete not lacking anything.**

- This is where God leads us in the Lions Den!
- What the enemy means to destroy us, God turns to our good.
- **Romans 8:28 (NKJV)** ²⁸And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

D. Job 23:10. **Come forth as Gold.**

God's promises regarding delivery and protection:

[Deuteronomy 28:1-14](#) - Your enemies will flee before you. You will be the head and not the tail.

[Psalm 91](#) - When you know and love God, He will deliver you.

[Psalm 109](#) - God saves even those condemned to death.

[Psalm 140](#) - God protects you from false accusations.

[Luke 10:17-20](#) - God has given you authority over all the power of the enemy.

[Philippians 1:27-28](#) - You are fearless of your adversaries and this is proof of their destruction.

[2 Timothy 4:16-18](#) - God will deliver you from every evil attack.

[Hebrews 2:14-15](#) - Jesus has freed you from slavery to fear and death.

CONCLUSION

Christ in my eyes

Do I keep my eyes on Christ in the midst of trial or am I prone to harbour doubts and discouragement?

Christ in my heart

Do I believe that Christ's righteousness is my actual portion even in the midst of difficult times that suggest otherwise?

Christ in my hands

Who do I know that is walking through a Lion's Den that I may impart Christ's encouragement and support to?

Christ in my feet

*What testimony do I have, like Daniel, where it can be said, "**My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths....**"*