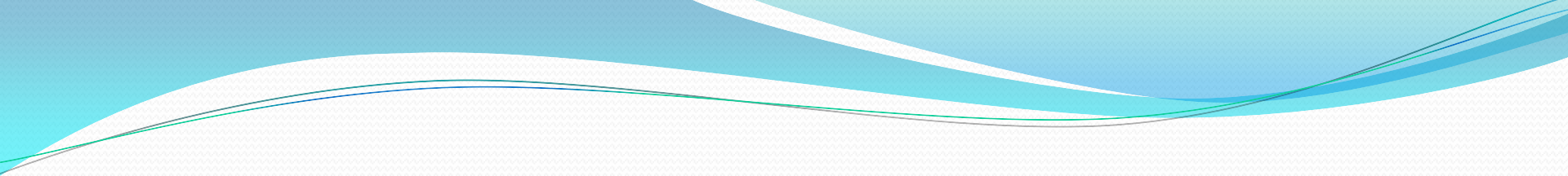


# Daniel, God's Kind Of Man!

## Daniel Chapter 6:1-16

- It is no accident that some of the other Babylonian leaders were trying to figure out how to get Daniel in trouble
- He was in upper level management in the kingdom
- He was faithful to God, honest, and full of integrity
- Surely someone like this is going to be loved by everybody, right?

***WRONG!***

- 
- Daniel had an enemy called Satan that was not happy with Daniel's success, nor his commitment to God—neither is he happy with yours, 1 Peter 5:8
  - Satan was using other government officials, who worked around Daniel, to get him penalized and thrown into the den of Lions
  - We often don't think about it, but there is a spiritual battle going on for our very lives everyday

# Observations

- Most of us don't like to fight physically. but unfortunately, this is how we approach our spiritual warfare. This is what we say:

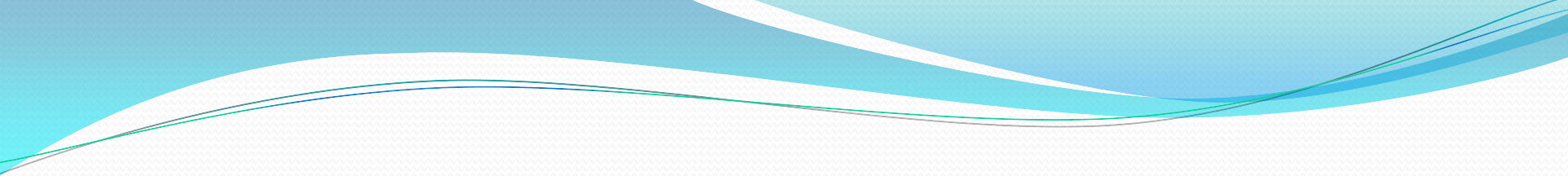
*“I don't want to fight my spiritual enemies. I'll just leave the devil alone, and maybe he will just leave me alone.”*

*Unfortunately, you don't have a choice as to whether there will be a fight or not!*

*If you have any relationships, a job, a marriage, any family, or any children, You Have A Fight!*

# The Bible Warns Us About An Unseen Struggle For Our Souls

- Daniel had been fasting for 3 weeks(Daniel 10:2-3)
- In verse 12 we read this, “... *Do not fear, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me 21 days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone with the king of Persia.*”

- 
- “Daniel, I’m sorry it took so long to answer your prayer, but I ran into some trouble while I was trying to get to you.”
  - “One of Satan’s warriors jumped me and I had to fight 21 days to get through to you.”
  - “I was able to get some help, because Michael, one of God chief officers, helped me.”
  - This tells me that the answers to my prayers may not come right away either — not because God didn’t hear them, or they weren’t relevant — but other unseen things may be going on, so keep praying!

# Two Ways Daniel Teaches To Defeat Our Enemy!

## #1 Choose Character Over Comfort

- Verse 4 says that the administrators looked for faults in Daniel's handling of his affairs but couldn't find any
- No skeletons in his closet, waiting to haunt him
- He was doing nothing behind closed doors of which he was ashamed
- Daniel's biggest enemy, Satan, couldn't find any dirt on him  
*"Be angry and do not sin," do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place (give a foothold) to the devil." Ephesians 4:26-27*

# Are You Living A Life That Satan Cannot Gain a Foothold to Enter?

## Our Tendency is to Think:

- I'm doing pretty good
  - There is no major area of sin in my life
  - I'm not stealing from anybody
  - I'm not having an affair with anybody
- BUT
- There are some areas in our lives of which we know God is not pleased (you know what they are)
  - We ignore them, because they are not as noticeable as others, so we let them go on and on
  - We believe we can quit them at any time when we are ready
  - This is exactly where the enemy wants to work (start small and work up: (your secret computer site, suggestive pictures on your camera, your alcohol cabinet, your magazines, prescription drugs, marijuana stash, your signature on the dotted line)



## #2 Discipline Over Disorder

- Some don't like this word so I will use the term "Self Control," a fruit of the spirit Galatians 5:22
- One of the qualities that should differentiate us spiritually from the world is self control
- Daniel chose to live a life with certain disciplines in place
  - Prayed 3 times every day, consistently
  - He refused to eat all of the rich foods of Babylon  
(I'm not trying to make vegetarians feel badly, just to accent Daniel's disciplined life)

# Tiger Woods Disciplined Practice Routine

- Start each day with a 4 mile run
- Go to the gym for a weight lifting session
- Go to the driving range for 2-3 hours
- Play a round of Golf
- Head to the short game area for putting and managing the greens
- Another 4 mile run
- Play basketball or tennis

# Observations

- In the midst of his now world-renowned success, he is discovered as a womanizer and drunkard
- It is interesting that someone so disciplined in the game of professional golf would lack self control with the basics of marriage and family (sow your wild oats and pray for a crop failure)
- The moral of the story: discipline doesn't do a whole lot for you unless you have it in the right areas.
- What are the right areas?

***The ones that last forever that are important to God!***

# 1 Corinthians 9:27 (NLT)

*“I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.”*

# The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38