



LET'S BEGIN HERE

Which entity is more relentlessly binding: the law of the Medes and the Persians or the faithfulness of God? In this account found in Daniel 6, the faithfulness of God is strong enough to shut the mouths of lions. Daniel's blamelessness, dependability, and steadfast faith in God—in a word, Daniel's *integrity*—served as the perfect foil for God's faithfulness to shine brilliantly.

Let's learn more about how this amazing man of God managed to faithfully serve both his God and his king and remain above reproach, even as he was trafficked from Judah to serve a pagan, foreign nation.



DIGGING DEEPER

It's fascinating to watch a story unfold where a Persian king is in bondage to the law of the Medes and Persians, the law *he* created, while the true King—God—is free to work out of the bounds of nature and predictability in order to keep safe His servant. The juxtaposition of Darius and Daniel is also worth noting. Both are bound by shame and honor to keep their word, and both individuals *do* keep their word. But while Darius lies on his soft couch, free on the outside, his soul is vexed to the point of insomnia. Only Daniel gets a good night's sleep.

Integrity reproduces that. When we are at peace with our God and our actions, we can handle the crush of unpredictable circumstances with quiet confidence.



HELPFUL HINTS

- Reading different Bible versions can help you read the same passage with fresh perspective. If you don't have different versions handy, there are plenty of Web sites (biblestudytools.com, bible.org, or biblegateway.com, to name a few) that can help you.
- Make some initial observations about what you see.

Quotable

A person with integrity has nothing to hide and nothing to fear and lives her or his life welcoming scrutiny.

— Charles R. Swindoll



- Reading the Bible is not merely an academic exercise. Never forget that.
- Prepare yourself to receive the richness of God’s Word through prayer. Pray for God to search your heart, and take time to confess and repent if need be. Pray for focus and enthusiasm to infuse your study.
- Take time. Don’t expect years of biblical depth to flow from a few minutes of study.



Your Turn in the Scriptures

Chuck Swindoll uses four techniques of Bible study methods every time he prepares a sermon.

Observation: What do you see?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

Correlation: How does it compare?

Application: What difference does it make?

We cannot underestimate the importance of application—this is where the rubber meets the road. If the lessons learned from the Bible are not then *lived*, then observation, interpretation, and correlation don’t at all matter; they reduce Bible study to a mere academic exercise.

Daniel’s sin is never recorded in Scripture. Rather, his faithfulness to God and his righteous actions—no matter the circumstances—are emphasized in the Bible. His life is a study in application. He lived what he believed.

Have you ever had a person offer a piece of advice that he or she clearly does not practice? Even if the advice is good, we’re left questioning its value. If the counsel were *that* good, after all, wouldn’t the person actually *do* what he or she said?

When it comes to the Word of God, we must practice what we preach—or study. As James succinctly stated in his epistle, “Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works” (James 2:26).



Read Deuteronomy 11:1.

What does this passage reveal about application?

Read James 1:22.

Summarize what this verse implies about application of Bible study.

How did Daniel display faith in his actions in Daniel 6:1–27?



Apply the Scriptures to Your Life First

Let's hone in on application as we study Daniel 6.

Describe two examples of integrity that you've encountered in your own experience. Why do these examples stand out in your memory?



Read the following verses, and paraphrase them using your own words:

Proverbs 10:9

Proverbs 20:7

Proverbs 22:1

Have you ever done the following at work:

- Taken office supplies for personal use
- Used company time for personal business
- Called in sick when you weren't
- Wasted company time surfing the Internet
- Visited inappropriate Internet sites
- Reported improper or extra expenses for reimbursement¹

Perhaps you have fallen short of displaying integrity at work. Daniel displayed extraordinary professional faithfulness, and all of us, whether we're the picture of integrity or our character can use some work, can be inspired by this verse about him, found in Daniel 6:4: "The vice-regents and governors got together to find some old scandal or skeleton in Daniel's life that they could use against him, but they couldn't dig up anything. He was totally exemplary and trustworthy" (MSG).



Take some time to write down your prayer to God for help in improving your character in the workplace.



Prayer: A Strong Cord

Daniel was taken from Judah when he was a youth. He was separated from his home, his culture, his language, his customs. He was forced to serve a king and kingdom not his own. Any one of these things could have spelled disaster for Daniel. The only remnant of home that he kept, however, turned out to be the most important: his devotion to the living God.

Prayer was a bond between Daniel and the Lord—a cord that grew stronger through prayer.

Read Matthew 5:43–45; 6:5–6.

How did Daniel exhibit the tenets found in these passages?

Read Luke 5:16.

Note the habit and the identity of the person described in the verse.

Is prayer a strong cord connecting you with God? How can you organize your day to prioritize prayer?



Is there a correlation between a person's prayer life and his or her level of integrity? Explain.

Chuck's Application: God Is at Work

Chuck gives a final encouragement to listeners: "God is a God of impossible situations. You may be facing one, but no worse than Daniel's. Take a lesson from this: God is at work."

Here are the six applications Chuck gleaned from Daniel 6:1–27.

When you choose to live a life of integrity, you have:

- *The sustained cultivation of exemplary character*
- *The continued relief of a clear conscience*
- *The personal delight of intimacy with God*
- *The priceless inheritance of a lingering legacy*
- *The crowning reward of finishing well*

List the action steps that you will apply to your life from this study.



A FINAL PRAYER

Father, thank You for prayer. Help us to strengthen the cord of communication to You, so that we may seek You, listen to You, and obey You. Amen.

Endnote

1. Adapted from Insight for Living Ministries, *Daniel — Volume 1: God's Man for the Moment Bible Companion* (Plano, Tex.: IFL Publishing House, 2008), 82.



WISE COUNSEL FOR TROUBLED TIMES

Modeling Integrity

Daniel 6:1–27

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

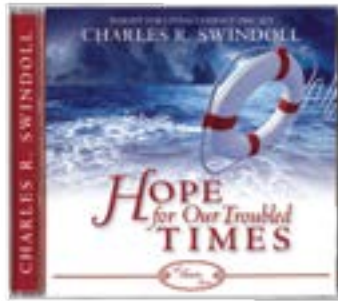
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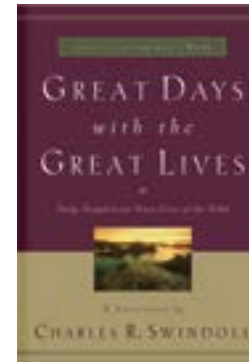
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For the 2017 broadcast, this Searching the Scriptures study was developed by the Pastoral Ministries Department in collaboration with Mark Tobey, based upon the original outlines, charts, and sermon transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll's messages.



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