

# CARING HEART FELLOWSHIP (CHF)

## Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021

**TOPIC:** PEOPLE JUST LIKE US – THE LIFE OF DANIEL  
**THEME:** SUMMARY OF LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF DANIEL  
**TEXT:** EZEKIEL 14:14; DANIEL CHAPTERS 1:1; 6:1 –28.

### Introduction

Today as we conclude our study of the book of Daniel, we will be having a quick overview of the key points that was highlighted from our character study of the Life of Daniel. We are reminded that His name means 'judgment of God' or 'God my judge.' He was born into Judah's royal family.

It was during King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon's first of three attacks against Jerusalem that he and his three friends; Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah (their Chaldean or Babylonian names were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego) became captives. They were transported to Babylon while still children.

Daniel has a lot of positive character qualities which are worth emulating as Christians. He lived in exile outside his home country but maintain all the spiritual qualities he acquired as a young man especially those touching on his spiritual life and his relationship with God.

These are things we can learn today as believers in the midst of the spiritual chaos and confusion we see around us.

### I. DANIEL LIVED AS A MAN WHOSE CHARACTER WAS REFINED

1. He lived as a man of constant integrity under the different kings he served (Daniel 6:4)

**Q: What are the other essential traits of a refined character?**

### II. DANIEL LIVED AS A MAN WHOSE CHARACTER WAS RADIANT

1. He had a disciplined prayer life which was responsible for his spiritual successes as well as his numerous revelations and prophetic abilities.  
Daniel 2:17-18; 6:10-11; 6:16; 9:3-19, 2:20-23)

**Q: In what way can we emulate the radiant character in Daniel's life?**

### III. DANIEL LIVED AS A MAN WHOSE CHARACTER WAS RESPECTABLE

1. He lived as a man of strong moral courage. (Daniel 1:8-17; 4:19-27; 6:10-23)

**Q: In what way did Daniel show strong moral courage?**

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## IV. DANIEL AND HIS FRIENDS FAITH WERE TESTED BY FEAR (Daniel 3:1-8)

1. But Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would not be intimidated into doing anything which would contradict God's command to all faithful Jews not to worship any other image except Jehovah God alone!  
(Deuteronomy 4:16-17; Exodus 20:4-5)

**Q: What made the three young men to be defiant against the king's command?**

## V. DANIEL AND HIS FRIENDS WERE TESTED BY FURY (Daniel 3:9-19)

1. Two times it is mentioned in this passage that the king was very furious at the three young men refusing to bow to the golden image he had made. (Vs.13 and 19) "Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego." "Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego."

**Q: How should faith respond in the face of fury and impending destruction?**

## VI. THEY WERE FINALLY TESTED BY FIRE (Daniel 3:19-30)

1. They demonstrated the kind of faithfulness intensified fire could not destroy. (Vs.19) "And he ordered the furnace to be heated seven times hotter than usual."

**Q: What are the key elements of the faithfulness demonstrated by the 3 young men that couldn't be destroyed by fire?**

## VII. BELSHAZZAR GOT AN INTERPRETER WHO WAS FAITHFUL (Daniel 5:10-16)

1. She ended her testimony about Daniel on a positive note. (Vs.12b) "...he can explain dreams and riddles and solve difficult problems. Send for Daniel, and he will tell you what the writing means." (Proverbs 16:7 NLT)

**Q: What can we do as believers today in the confines of our homes, schools, community and society in general that will be a testimony to non-believers?**

## VIII. DANIEL WAS ABSOLUTELY FAITHFUL IN HIS POLITICAL LIFE (Daniel 6:1-4)

1. Daniel did his work as a political administrator more faithfully than all the other officials and governors in the kingdom. (Vs. 3) "Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the

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administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom." (See Daniel 1:20-21; 2:49).

**Q: How do we live a life of faithfulness in a worldly and corrupt system or society?**

### **IX. DANIEL WAS ABSOLUTELY FAITHFUL IN HIS PRAYER LIFE (Daniel 6:5-18)**

*1.* Daniel's faithfulness in prayer is seen in this: (Vs. 10) "Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done be-fore." (See Psalm 55:16-17)

**Q: Where do you go when you don't know what else to do? (Psalm 61:2, Luke 18:1)**

### **CONCLUSION**

Daniel is a shining example of what the life of a faithful Christian should be. Though he was far removed from the godly environment as a Jew to stay and work with Gentiles who neither understood the holiness of God nor His commandments, he never forgot his sound spiritual heritage.

Any wonder that God used him so mightily under these mighty kings?

Character is formed when we choose to do right when given the opportunity to do wrong. Every day we are presented with opportunities to sin. When we resist temptation, character is the result. Daniel proved that we can live clean lives even in a corrupt culture.

Daniel followed his convictions rather than the crowd. He dared to be different, and God honoured him for it. Truly, Daniel distinguished himself by his exceptional qualities. He dared to be different, and what a profound difference he made.

The same God is with us. He will use us too—if only we strive for excellence in our lives.