

Daniel 6:10

Now 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.

When the decree happened not to pray to any god, except to the king, Daniel went home and prayed to God three times that day as he always did. And the governors and satraps, who were trying to get rid of Daniel, knew this and told this to the king, in fact they told it to the king in so much detail that they said that Daniel not only prayed to God, but that he prayed three times that day to God.

† **Daniel 6:13** *So they answered and said before the king, "That Daniel, who is one of the captives from Judah, does not show due regard for you, O king, or for the decree that you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day."*

Also as you read today's verse, not only did Daniel pray three times, but his prayers did not change based upon his circumstance, but rather Daniel continued to give thanks to God, like he always did.

† *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.*

So how could Daniel still give thanks to God, even though he knew his life was in danger by praying to God? Simply because Daniel knew the God that he was praying to and that no matter what man decrees or tells him to do, his God (our GOD) is greater than any decree given by man.

Also in verses 6-7 we read that the king was counseled by "*the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps*", but the king did not have, or even seek Godly counsel, because if he did, Daniel (the Godly counsel) would have advised the king that this was a bad decree.

† **Daniel 6:6-7** *So these governors and satraps thronged before the king, and said thus to him: "King Darius, live forever! All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions.*

So how do we apply this to us today?

Well, first off, if you are in prayer everyday, not just a "thank you for this food" prayer, but one on one prayer between God and yourself, then when things arise you are not praying those, "oh help me God, I don't know what to do" last minute, last resort prayers. You know, the ones

that you pray and after God gets you through it, you say, “*Thanks God. I call on you next time I need You again*” type prayers.

What, you say you don’t do that? Hopefully it’s true, but if the only time you pray is for your meals and when you are in trouble, that’s not a relational prayer, that’s a thank you for what you gave me, and can You help me I’m in trouble again type of non-relationship prayer. But it’s not an intimate relationship between God and you. What if your kids or even your spouse treated the same way, coming to you once a day saying thanks for the grub, and then only talking to you when they needed or wanted something from you, how would you feel? Not to good. If we don’t want to be treated that way, how much more should we not treat God our Father that way either?

So, let’s be more like Daniel who had a intimate time of prayer with the Lord everyday, and yes you can do it three times or more a day, but wouldn’t the Lord be happy if you did it at least once a day to start with, Because it’s not the number of times, or even the length of your prayer, but rather your heart behind the prayer, truly wanting that relationship with the Lord. Then when things happen, and they do, (we can all testify to that) your prayers for help would be part of your daily conversation with the Lord. Also, by seeking the Lord first everyday, you are seeking Godly counsel to make it through each day, because you are seeking God Himself to guide you through every circumstance, every day.

† **Psalm 34:4** *I sought the LORD, and He heard me, And delivered me from all my fears.*

† **Psalm 77:1-3** *I cried out to God with my voice-- To God with my voice; And He gave ear to me. In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord; My hand was stretched out in the night without ceasing; My soul refused to be comforted. I remembered God, and was troubled; I complained, and my spirit was overwhelmed. Selah*

† **Isaiah 58:2** *Yet they seek Me daily, And delight to know My ways, As a nation that did righteousness, And did not forsake the ordinance of their God. They ask of Me the ordinances of justice; They take delight in approaching God.*