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Main Idea

Faithfulness to the Living God who delivers

Daniel was faithful in all things to the living God who delivers, *because* God is Faithful

Title: Daniel 6: Faith and Faithfulness - Đức Tin và Trung Tín

Introduction:

In the history of the church, there are many heroic stories of martyrs and faithful servants of God which make us say ‘wow!’. There are those who sang hymns of worship as they were burnt at the stake. There are those who suffered in prison for many years. There are Vietnamese Christians who have given very much and suffered very much for their faith. There are those who gave their all.

Daniel is one of these, a ‘hero of the faith’. He did not die for his faith but he was ready to do so. In Chapter 6 on the book of Daniel, we see how faithful he was. He was above reproach. He did the right thing at all times.

Do you want to be a believer like Daniel? I hope I could be like him. Many times I feel like I am not. How faithful he was! But Daniel’s faithfulness came from somewhere, there is a very good reason he could be so faithful.

Two points I would like us to focus on: **1. Daniel's Faithfulness and 2: God's Faithfulness.** These two points will help us to see that Daniel was faithful in all things to the living God who delivers, because God is Faithful, and this will bring us to our third point, **3. Our Faithfulness:** we ought to live in the same manner of God-focused faith and faithfulness as Daniel lived.

1 - Daniel's Faithfulness

In this chapter, Daniel's faithfulness is clearly on display:

He was recognized as faithful

by those for him (Darius) v. 1-4

- Daniel by now was an old man. He had come to Babylon as a young man, and was trained by the Babylonians. **Now he is about 80 years old**, and has served several different kings. Some of you are close to his age.
- A new king has come to power, Darius the Mede.
- Darius set up his kingdom, and chose Daniel to be one of his top officials, likely because he had heard of Daniel's faithfulness, wisdom, skills.
- Darius saw that Daniel was faithful, and so he set him as a high official above the 120 Satraps (princes) and was planning to set him as prime minister over the whole kingdom (v. 3)
- Darius liked Daniel. Daniel was very faithful to him.

by those against him (rival officials) (under persecution) v. 10, 13, 16

- Daniel's success made his co-workers jealous. He was in the top 3, but the other 2, and many of the Satraps below him, were jealous.
- Daniel was not one of them. He was a foreigner, brought to Babylon as an exile. So they were jealous, hated him, and looked for a way to get rid of him.

- try as they might they could not find a single fault in him. (v. 4 – he was faithful)
- So they made a plan to trap him in matters of religion, in matters of his faithfulness to God. (v. 5)
- they knew Daniel was faithful, that he would not change his ways, and so they made a law that they were sure he would break. The law: no prayer allowed except to King Darius for 30 days. Those who disobeyed – to the Lions' Den.

- What did Daniel do? He went to his home, got on his knees, and prayed, in his open window facing towards Jerusalem. As he always did. He did not change his faithful habits, nor did he hide them. (v. 10)
- in doing this, he was faithful unto death, ready to die rather than to give up the proper worship of God and prayer to His God.

He was proven to be faithful, vindicated, in the Lions' Den

by God v. 22 – 23

- in the Lions' Den, Daniel was proven to be faithful. He was vindicated, which is to say, he was shown to be in the right, and those who accused him were shown to be in the wrong.
- his enemies and accusers had accused him of being faithless to the king, but God gave the judgment - the lions did nothing to Daniel, he didn't have a single scratch.
- Daniel was found blameless before God. (v.22) This is not to say he was a sinless man, but that in this situation, he had done nothing wrong. Nothing he had done was a sin against God, and nothing he had done was a sin against King Darius.
- Yes, he had disobeyed the king's law that only the king was to be worshiped, but

this was where he said, “I must obey God rather than man”.

- his opponents, on the other hand, were proven to be faithless and guilty (v. 24).

Their destruction by the lions was a sign of God’s judgment.

- Daniel was faithful, skilled, distinguished, and this was seen and proven by the king, by his enemies, and by God.

- He’s a Hero! A hero of the faith.

- Daniel is a wonderful example to follow. We do want to be like him – using our God given skills to serve, seeking the good of others, and being faithful in good times and in hard times, even unto death. In our workplace, in our school, in our family, in our church, in our country, we hope that we can be faithful like Daniel.

- But if we stopped here, we would miss something very important, we would miss the big picture.

- We must ask the question, why was Daniel able to do so well? Why was he able to be above reproach? What is the secret to his faithfulness? If we know this, we will be able to be faithful like Daniel.

- the answer is:

2 - God's Faithfulness

Daniel's Faithfulness has a source, a root, a spring from which it flows (nguồn)

His faithfulness comes from his faith in God, and his faith has an object: God Himself:

God who is faithful, God who is the living God, God who is forever and whose kingdom is forever, God who is the God who saves

What did God do? He was faithful to Himself and His Nature, and to Daniel:

What are some of the ways God was faithful?

- **God gave Daniel the Holy Spirit (v.3)**, and by doing so worked faith in Him (Father, Son, Holy Spirit work in unity). Faith is the gift of God:

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith.

And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God

- Daniel was saved, from the lions and eternally, because God gave him faith, Faith in God and Faith in Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Jesus had not yet come to earth as Emmanuel, but the saints of the Old Testament were saved in exactly the same way as we are – by faith in Jesus Christ, who had been promised to them. Starting in Genesis 3:15, God gave the promise of a savior, a Messiah, who would come to save His people from their sins. Daniel's faith was in God and God's covenant promises.

- **God gave Daniel special gifts and skills** – Daniel 1:17; v. 3

¹⁷ As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

- Here, many decades later, Daniel still has these God-given skills, and he was

distinguished above all other officials.

- **God was and is faithful to His covenant, and his promises.** As King Darius testified in v. 26,

...²⁶ God's kingdom shall never be destroyed, and His dominion shall be to the end.

God promised the kingdom, promised the exile, and promised return from exile

- **God is sovereign and works His providence**

- God raises up and sets down rulers, Daniel was in his position by God's sovereign control and provision.

By these faithful acts of God, Daniel able to do so well. This is why was he able to be above reproach. Because of God's Faithfulness.

- Daniel has faith, and faith is not an emotion or a mere belief, faith rests in, depends on something. And Daniel's faith was in God.

- we see his faith as he prays to God (**Daniel 9** – about the same time),

- Praying to Jerusalem as King Solomon had prayed for (1 Ki 8:46-49) at the dedication of the temple in Jerusalem:

- ... that if God's people sinned and were carried into exile, but turned back to God and prayed towards the temple, that God would be merciful and answer their prayers.

- Praying for Gods mercy (Daniel 9 :4-5, 17...)

⁴ *I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession, saying, "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments,*

⁵ *we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules.*

¹⁷ Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his pleas for mercy,

- this faith helps him to pray when times are good, and when they are bad.
- this faith keeps his eyes on Jerusalem, the kingdom of God
- this faith keeps him worshiping God under persecution (ready to die for his faith) – had God not saved him, he would have remained faithful, just as Hananiah, Mishael, Azariah in the fiery furnace (chpt 3).

*Hebrews 11:33 ³³ who **through faith** conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, **stopped the mouths of lions,***

3. Our Faithfulness

- Just as Daniel, we are to be faithful in all things to the living God, and this is both by our resolve and God's working in us.

Phil 2:12-13. - Both And working out faith and obedience AND God working in us

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

- Do you want to be faithful like Daniel? It is a worthy goal. Would you be like Daniel?
- Then you must place your faith in God. Daniel's God is our God. He is the living God. Daniel was saved by faith in God and His Messiah, we are saved by the exact same faith. Have you placed your faith in Jesus, whom God sent to save?
- God has given us the Holy Spirit, that we might believe and be saved. Do you believe? Praise God for His Spirit dwells in you! Do you not believe? Are you not a believer in God, in Jesus Christ? Ask Him to give you His Spirit.

- God has given us special gifts and skills, that we might serve. Are you using your gifts to serve God, His kingdom, and those around you?
- God is faithful to His covenant and His promises, and he has shown this in Jesus Christ to the fullest degree. Are you trusting in God's faithfulness?
- God is sovereign over your life, and in His providence guides and gives. Are you praying to God with this in mind? Whether you are young or old (as Daniel was), we ought to be faithful in prayer as he was.
- Do you face persecution? Perhaps you do. Perhaps you will in the future. The workplace, the schools and universities, or perhaps even from family members. May God grant you faithfulness, to stand like Daniel.
- Are you older, as Daniel was? Are you remaining faithful as he was?
- In all of these situations, these questions we think through, we want to answer positively, "Yes!" and also "Lord help me!"
- In all of these life situations, we cannot rely on our own strength. Jesus Christ. God was and is faithful to His covenant promises, He sent Jesus Christ, to fulfill all things, to live a life far better than Daniel's, a perfect life, to die a death that only He could suffer, in the place of his sheep, and to rise to resurrection life, such that He gives forgiveness of all sins and eternal life to all those who believe in Him.

Would you be faithful as Daniel was faithful? Look to Jesus as Daniel did, trust in God's faithfulness as Daniel did, and from that place, that position, live out your life faithfully unto God.

Because God is faithful. Because God is living. Because He delivers: May we live faithfully as his people, our faith resting completely in Him. Amen.