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A SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE

In studying the book of Daniel, we learn that as a young teenager in captivity that he had determined not to defile himself. Verse 1:3 tells us that he was of the “king’s seed, and of the princes”. He had no blemish, was well-favored, skillful in all wisdom and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science.”

In spite of that fact that he was of the Jewish King’s seed and that the king had not listened to God and did not repent, Daniel made a different choice. He did not go the way of his father. He wanted to please God. Like all Jewish youth he had been trained in the things of God, but he had to make the choice in which way to go. He had been well trained. Are we training our children in the things of God?

In Daniel 1:8 it says, ***“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat, nor with the wine he drank...”*** He did not want to become like the “world” that he had been placed in. He wanted to be what God called him to be.

Later it was said of him in his old age by the Queen of the country that in Daniel was found an excellent spirit (Daniel 5:12). He did not change! In spite of being in captivity, in spite of being thrown into the lion’s den. In spite of being put in a position to compromise and not pray, he stayed the same. How can this be? It only happens when someone spends enough time in the secret place with God. Daniel prayed at least three times a day. He didn’t do it as a religious obligation. He did it because he “knew his God”. He knew God, and God knew him.

What about us? Do we walk in that same spirit? Do we attain for a spirit of excellence, or do we just drift by in our Christian walk? If the queen talked about Daniel and his life it was because his reputation went before him. What about our reputation? Do we stand the test, or do we compromise and take the easy path? In this newsletter today is a prophetic word given out in July of this year. God is raising up those with a spirit of Daniel on them. This sounds like a good thing, but there is a price to pay for this anointing. It means total surrender to God in every area of our lives. It means letting go of the past failures and past victories and not being concerned about anything but pleasing God. God will give you purpose if we give him praise. God will give us provision if we give him time in prayer. God will give us power when we give him the glory for it.

Be a man or woman of an excellent spirit. Let God use you like he used Daniel to bring the unbelievers to truth!