

P255

GRACE NOTES RADIO PROGRAM
THEME: Taking a stand - part 5
SONGS: CALL ON JESUS
SHOUT TO THE LORD

INTRO: Welcome to Grace Notes. We trust you've been enjoying our study with Barbara Sandbek on the lives of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. On our last program, these teenaged Jewish boys were confronted with death when the wise men couldn't reveal and interpret King Nebuchadnezzar's dream. But Daniel didn't PANIC or POUT, rather, he PLANNED his course of action, then held a PRAYER PARTY, where he and his friends PLEADED and PERSISTED for an answer from God. God revealed the dream to Daniel. What was his first reaction to this miracle? Stay tuned and find out.

I enjoyed what David Jeremiah said in addressing his congregation...

"If you don't have any trials, you'll never see any of God's miracles. So, if you'll just come forward at the end of the service, we'll pray for a trial for you."

Now that would be a switch, wouldn't it? We usually pray for trials to be removed. Sometimes we fail to see that our spiritual maturity is developed when we have a problem so big that only God can handle it.

Daniel's problem was probably greater than any we'll ever face. He didn't have the Scripture to turn to like we do - he was making it as he lived. And he didn't have an earthly Father, either, but...he did have a powerful Heavenly Father who was just waiting for his call.

Though Daniel was very young, he'd already realized, through experience, that PRAYER precedes PROVISION. He'd had many successes, but was still humble enough to admit his need for God. This kept him from panicking. I guess you could say, he was a child at heart. Shouldn't we all be?

Children, for the most part, are humble - they realize they're needy. I'll never forget the time I took my two young sons for a walk. When we got back, I found I'd locked myself out of the house. The people in our neighborhood worked during the day and my husband had just started a new job and didn't have a phone. I started to panic, until my five year old said, "Mommy, why don't we pray?" So, we knelt down at the end of the driveway and prayed. God reminded me of a teenager who had a key. A neighbor just happened to be home and we called the girl's school. She just happened to have her car that day, which was unusual, and brought the key over.

Prayer is sure more effective than panic. While panic confirms your hopelessness, prayer confirms your hopefulness in God - the maker, sustainer, and accountant of stars...AND the hairs on our heads!

I like what 1 Peter 3:12a says...

The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous & his ears are attentive(inclined) to their prayers.

I picture this like a mother listening intently for the call of her child in the night.

I was reminded that God says we're to come to Him as a child would. Asking God's help was our son's first response. It should be ours, too. Oh, there are times when we, parents, feel our kids are asking too much, but God never feels that way about us.

I like the way the writer portrays a childlike trust in God in this next song. She used some 'la la la's' in the interludes, which reminds me of children playing freely, without fear or worry. Kids run immediately to their parents when they're afraid. We need to stop thinking we can handle all things and run to our Heavenly Father to protect us. You see, ALL things are possible ONLY when we call on Jesus.

**** CALL ON JESUS ****

How many times have you been awakened in the middle of the night to hear a praise report? Not often, I bet. Unfortunately, that's not something we normally do.

But Daniel was not your ordinary kind of guy. Before he rushed to save his neck by telling the King he knew his dream, he took time to bless, or praise, the King of Kings. And he called his prayer partners during the night so they could be a part of this. Listen to his words recording in Daniel 2:20-23:

**Praise be to the Name of God - forever and ever;
Wisdom and power are His.
He changes times and seasons; He sets up kings and deposes them.
He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.
He reveals deep and hidden things;
He knows what lies in darkness & light dwells with Him.
I thank and praise you, O God of my fathers.
You have given me wisdom and power.
You have made know to me what WE asked of You.
You have made known to US the dream of the King.**

Do you realize that praise is the only thing we have that God didn't give us? Sure, He gives us reason to praise Him, but the actual praise originates from us. It's our way of giving something back to God – of saying 'thanks' for His blessings.

Daniel is praising the Name of God. How do we do this in this dispensation?

In Jesus' prayer for His disciples, recorded in John 17:11 He said...

Holy Father, protect them by the POWER of Your Name, the Name you gave ME – so that they may be one as we are one.

God gave His Son the name 'Jesus', which means 'the Lord saves'. Jesus' atoning work on the cross and His resurrection ensures salvation for all who call on his name. Romans 10:9 says...

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord" and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Verse 12 continues...

"Everyone who calls on the Name of the Lord will be saved."

We're blessed because of the Name of Jesus. It pleases God when we speak the Name of Jesus to Him.

Hebrews 13:15 says...

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise the fruit of lips that confess His Name.

Daniel expressed his absolute confidence in God's control over the world, though he was living in an enemy nation that had just destroyed God's temple in Jerusalem.

Oh, there's so much more to this praise than what we've covered. Why not study it for yourselves. My final observation is that Daniel addressed God first as 'He', then he changed it to 'You'. Why? I believe Daniel felt God's presence after he drew near and praised Him?

Do we take time to praise the Lord for answers to our prayers? A little shouting might do you some good.

***** SHOUT TO THE LORD *****

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Join us on our next program. Until then, let your grace notes be a song of praise!