



INSTRUCTIONS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

Dr. Peter D. Wyns

Entry 4 - 8

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An Extraordinary Spirit

The closer we walk with Christ, the more we become like Him. Our goal is to be so Christ-like that we possess an extraordinary spirit. New Christians may be talented, knowledgeable, resourceful and even very likable, but they do not possess an extraordinary spirit. Before long, even the nicest newcomer is exposed as needing more of Christ. That is why the Bible teaches us not to put a novice in a possession of leadership. The extraordinary spirit comes from spending time with Jesus. Whoever has this spirit will have the peace that passes understanding, a joy unspeakable, a God ordained righteousness, power to change lives and a faith that reaches beyond the explainable. This anointing makes a person larger than life. It is not natural; it is the manifest presence of the Holy Spirit.

Here in the USA many people believe that Jesus is the Savior of the world. We are blessed to live in a nation full of Christians. It is not like that in most countries. I am grateful for the Christians in America but I am even more blessed to find Christians who have maintained an intimate faith walk with Jesus; they have received an extraordinary spirit.

The Bible tells stories of many people who have possessed an extraordinary spirit. Adam, Enoch and Noah walked with God. Adam was commissioned to name the animals and manage the garden. Enoch walked so close to God that God took him before he died. Noah was amazing; God saved him when the rest of the world's population was destroyed in the flood. In addition, Abraham had amazing faith; God blessed the whole world because of him. Jacob wrestled with God and the Lord called him a prince. Moses was the meekest man who ever lived; at times his face shone so bright with God's glory that the people could not look at him. David had a heart after God's own heart. Even in heaven, Jesus identi-

fies himself as still being related to David. (Re. 5:5)

The book of Hebrews gives a list of patriarchs who pressed into God and were commended by Him for their faith. (Heb. 11:39) These individuals possessed an extraordinary spirit because they lived a life of faith and walked before the Lord. Their fellowship with God caused them to stand out as unusual and magnificent; each possessed an extraordinary spirit.

Daniel was amazing. He was among those who had an extraordinary spirit. Read what the scriptures say about him:

*“Daniel began distinguishing himself among the commissioners ... because he possessed an **extraordinary spirit**, and the king planned to appoint him over the entire kingdom. Then the commissioners ... began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel ... but they could find no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption, inasmuch as he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption was to be found in him.” Dan. 6:3,4 NAS*

Daniel faced enormous pain and unbelievable suffering, yet through it all, he walked with God. From a position of weakness, Daniel was used by God to change the world.

His story begins in Jerusalem. His family was most likely killed when the Babylonians attacked and conquered Israel. Daniel was carted away as a slave. He was castrated, given the name of a demon god, forced to learn the language of his enemies and pressured to understand their heathen culture. As if to add insult to injury, he had to serve the pagan king who enslaved him.

Throughout history, multitudes of individuals have suffered. While they were immersed in pain, some like Daniel, immersed themselves in the presence of God. The negative situation did not dictate a negative reaction in Daniel; instead he walked with God.

Daniel was taken as a slave because he was brilliant. He was educated as a son of the covenant. The education in Israel during Daniel's childhood was studying the scriptures and learning about the God of Abraham and Moses. When tragedy came, Daniel took what he had learned and drew closer to God.

It would have been expected, if Daniel had taken on a wounded spirit, a pitiful spirit, a victim spirit, a depressed spirit, a broken spirit, a cynical spirit, a defeated spirit, an angry spirit, a vengeful spirit, a murderous spirit, or even a suicidal spirit. Instead, Daniel had a faith-filled spirit because he walked close to God. He did this while he was in pain. It is our reactions in life that determine our future. Daniel walked in faith and fellowship with the Lord and God gave him an extraordinary spirit.

Later, when his enemies planned his destruction they could find no fault in him. Daniel was not an easy target, he had an extraordinary spirit.

Take note of the supernatural gifting and grace that God deposited in Daniel. Similar anointing will come to all who follow Daniel's example.

1. **He was filled with supernatural faith.** That is why he kept giving thanks to God.
2. **He received directional dreams** from God, that revealed the future.
3. **He was given a gift to interpret other people's dreams.**
4. **He received the wisdom** that came from above so he could counsel others, even the king.

5. **He was favored** and was given position by the king because the light of God was in him.
6. **He became a great leader,** influencing others like those who faced the fiery furnace.
7. **He was given supernatural courage** to be faithful to God, even under threat of death.
8. **He was given angels** who protected him from the lions.
9. **He became a testimony** of God's faithfulness and power.
10. **He was the reason** why the king commanded everyone in the land to honor God.

Later, Esther, Nehemiah, Ezra and even the Wise Men who worshipped baby Jesus, all received faith while living in Babylon. Daniel's extraordinary spirit impressed a nation and left a godly testimony for generations to come.

No amount of religious activity can produce an extraordinary spirit. The Lord imparts His extraordinary spirit as a person maintains a close faith-walk with Him. It is for all who remain fixed on Him; for all who have learned to abide in Him.

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