



Empowering People to Change the World

## **Contending for an Extraordinary Spirit**

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## Power To Rule

### Romans 5:17

***For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.***

### Contending for an Extraordinary Spirit

- Through the abundance, overflow of God's grace, and the gift of righteousness—the Holy Spirit freely given to us when we put our faith in Christ.
- Through Christ, the only One who can give us such grace and righteousness.
- We can rule and reign in life!
- Not life ruling and reigning over us, but Christ reigning and ruling over life.

### **This is the Prophetic fulfillment of the Original Mandate for Man.**

**Daniel, in the Bible, is a type of End Times Leader, who made choices, even as a young man, to reign and rule over his life...**

- Daniel is one of the most unique men in the Bible and his story giving us a glimpse into being one who contends for his inheritance:

### Daniel 1:20

***And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.***

- 10x better! This is a group of young men who are far and away exceeding those around them.

- This is truly amazing when you consider a few things about Daniel’s life.
  1. He is a prisoner, a refugee, working under very adverse conditions.
  2. He is a young man, probably a teen.
  3. He is not working alone but has bloodstained allies beside him.
  4. He makes a choice in order to contend—a contra mundum.
- What made Daniel unique? What enabled him to live and be fruitful, to multiply his life so significantly?
- Another situation, years later...

#### **Daniel 5:10**

***The queen, because of the words of the king and his lords, came to the banquet hall. The queen spoke, saying, “O king, live forever! Do not let your thoughts trouble you, nor let your countenance change. 11 There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the Spirit of the Holy God. And in the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, were found in him; and King Nebuchadnezzar your father—your father the king—made him chief of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers. 12 Inasmuch as an excellent spirit, knowledge, understanding, interpreting dreams, solving riddles, and explaining enigmas[a] were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar, now let Daniel be called, and he will give the interpretation.”***

#### **Daniel 6**

***It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty satraps, to be over the whole kingdom; 2 and over these, three governors, of whom Daniel was one, that the satraps might give account to them, so that the king would suffer no loss. 3 Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the***

***king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm.***

- Aramaic, Yattiyr—extraordinary, exceedingly.
- Pursuing the highest things God has for you. Don’t you want everything that God has for you?
- I believe Daniel is a prophetic type of worshipper and warrior that we would contend to be in these latter days.

- In the latter days God is pouring out deeper and greater works than ever before!
- This is for people who are absolutely relentless in the pursuit of an excellent spirit, an extraordinary spirit.
- It is that daily intimacy and encounter with the Holy Spirit.
- It is the give and take of a relationship with the Spirit of God. How did this young man become a man with an excellent spirit?

### Daniel 1

***In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. 2 And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god. 3 Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles, 4 young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans. 5 And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king's delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of that time they might serve before the king. 6 Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. 7 To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: he gave Daniel the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego.***

**8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank;**

- This is the secret to an extraordinary spirit—Daniel purposed in his heart.
- Daniel was focused on God!
- Daniel was relentless in his pursuit of the things that were excellent.

## **1 Corinthians 2:9**

***But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”***

- This the future God has for us if we want it. This is what is available! God is preparing these awesome works of His Spirit for our life.
- We can't even fathom it in our natural heart. When we think with our natural heart we will never understand kingdom plans from God.

***10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.***

- God reveals his plans, his wonder, his love, his grace, his power through the Spirit.
- The Spirit of God searches the deep things of God.
- God wants to reveal the intentions of the Spirit of God for our lives into our spirit man.
- If we will receive the Spirit of God instead of the spirit of the world, we can know the things freely given to us by God.
- Revelation only comes through contending for intimacy with the Spirit of God.

***13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.***

- You cannot get there through human wisdom but as the Spirit teaches you.

- We need three things to gain an extraordinary spirit:
  - 1) Request it. Seek it. Go after it. Contend for it.
  - 2) Revelation from the Holy Spirit.
  - 3) Reception of it when you get it. Obedience.

***14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. 16 For “who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ.***

- You can't get it through the natural man. Non-believers can't have it. It's not available to them. This is not to say there aren't good people, wonderful people, talented people who don't know the Lord. But they don't have and can't get revelations from God for life.
- We have the mind of Christ. We can tap into, download the Spirit's wisdom, knowledge, and insight.
- Daniel: “Inasmuch as an excellent spirit, knowledge, understanding, interpreting dreams, solving riddles, and explaining enigmas were found in this Daniel.”
- God wants to give the human spirit an excellent spirit. Fierce determination to have everything God has for us.
- You will have to contend for an extraordinary spirit! You will have to war for it.

Paul at the end of his life, his final will and testament to his most beloved friend Timothy. Paul knows he will soon be killed:

***2 Timothy 4:6***

***For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.***

- Old Testament language of a drink offering being poured out.
- Fought the good fight—he has contended; he has warred; I held the line against the war against darkness.
- I stood my position.
- Many can say that they are born again, but few can say they contended and won the race.
- If you can say verse 7 at the end of your life—that is an excellent spirit.
- I finished the race—I kept engaged fully engaged to what I bought into.
- Lack of this lack of that and most of us fall into discouragement.
- That's me.
- Vs. 8 The second coming. his is not about being born again. This is a crown of ruling, crown of authority.
  - Only a small number will get this.
  - A place of government, a place of authority on the new earth.
  - The position of authority will be given to us.
  - He contended for it and he was faithful.
  - All the fullness of his inheritance will be his.