

# WORD FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

GOD'S PATIENCE AND KINDNESS LEADS PEOPLE TO REPENTANCE. ROMANS 2:4

www.wordfc.org | 856.435.1771 | 300 W. Atlantic Ave. Stratford, NJ 08084

## Influencing the Nations

Growing up in church, I heard every Bible story.

Noah and the Ark. Daniel and the Lion's Den. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. David. Rahab. Mary. Joseph. Paul. Timothy. Peter. John.

Stories of men. Stories of women. People who trusted God and did the right thing. Even when it was scary. Even when it was tough.

But without ever realizing it, and without ever fully comprehending it, I had taken these amazing, wonderful stories of the Bible, true stories of men and women who obeyed God and influenced nations, and unknowingly reduced them to stories of men and women who obeyed God and reaped, what looked to me to be some really unpleasant consequences.

After all, I thought: Daniel obeyed God and got thrown to the lions. And Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego obeyed God and got thrown in the furnace. And Paul obeyed God and got thrown in prison. And John obeyed God and got his head chopped off!

And as I grew, I took that belief system with me. Obey God? Sure! Yes! I'll obey...to a point. I'll obey...until it gets scary. I'll obey...until it gets tough. After all, the radical ones get thrown to the lions...or thrown into prison...or worse.

But as I was reading the end of Daniel 6 today, reading the words of King Darius, after he goes out to find Daniel still alive after a night in the lion's den, I saw it! I saw it, really saw it, for maybe the first time!

The point of the story is certainly not that Daniel obeyed God and some seemingly bad stuff happened to him. Daniel had been obeying God for a long time and lots of stuff had happened.

The point of the story is also not just that Daniel obeyed God and God rescued him. After all, there are many stories of those who obeyed God and did not see rescue here on Earth.

The main, overarching point of not just Daniel's story, but the Bible as a whole, is that as God's people walk in close relationship with Him, the people around them are influenced.

In Daniel's case, through his obedience, which came out of his close, intimate relationship with His God, a king and his entire kingdom were influenced!

Daniel, in simply being who he was, in continuing to do what he knew God called him to do, in continuing to do what he had been doing all along - following, communing with and obeying the One True God - in that, a whole nation - in fact Daniel 6 says the entire known world - was turned toward God!

It wasn't that Daniel had one moment of great obedience. It was that Daniel, having walked in obedience, continued to do so and the greatness of God was revealed to the world!

*Then King Darius sent this message to the people of every race and nation and language throughout the world: "Peace and prosperity to you! I decree that everyone throughout my kingdom should tremble with fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God, and He will endure forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed, and His rule will never end." Daniel 6:25-26*

Oh my friends, you and I can have the same influence! We can be of those who influence kings, who influence rulers, who influence entire people groups and entire nations!

And so, I encourage you today, walk in obedience.

And keep walking in obedience. Keep following the One True God. Keep communing with Him. Keep loving on Him and allowing Him to love on you. Keep listening to His voice. And keep obeying it.

And in all those little acts of obedience, your faith will grow. Your faith will mature. And so will your influence. Your influence in your family, your neighborhood, your city, and maybe, like Daniel, the world.

*Jesus came and told His disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations..." Matthew 28:18*

## Dates & Times to Remember

### **Prayer Walk**

Date: June 20

Contact Person: [Dawn](#)

### **3rd Sunday Fun Day**

Date: June 21

Contact Person: [Susie](#)

### **Heaven in Business**

Date: June 27

Contact Person: [Denise](#)