



Acts & Facts

Daniel 1:8-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Sermon Series: Finding
True Courage

Introduction

- Psalm 46:1, David writes:
- *“God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.”*

Introduction (cont'd)

- Christianity is all about facts. It's all about truth.
- So what do you do when the tight place threatens to choke off your very existence?
- You live off the facts. Facts that cannot be refuted or challenged.

I. Daniel's Tight Place

- Daniel 1:8-14 (NIV):
- *But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.⁹ Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel...*

Daniel 1:8-14 (cont'd)

- *¹⁰ but the official told Daniel, “I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you.”*

Daniel 1:8-14 (cont'd)

- *¹¹ Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, ¹² “Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. ¹³ Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see.” ¹⁴ So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.*

Daniel's Reaction to the Tight Place

- *He opted out* (v.8)
- *He offered an option* (vv.9-13)
- *He overcame the objection* (vv.14-16)
- *He outdistanced the others* (vv.17-20)

Daniel 1:15-16 (NIV)

- *¹⁵ At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. ¹⁶ So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.*

Daniel 1:17-18 (NIV)

- *¹⁷ To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.*
- *¹⁸ At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar.*

Daniel 1:19-21 (NIV)

- *¹⁹ The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. ²⁰ In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanterers in his whole kingdom.*
- *²¹ And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.*

Daniel's Tight Place (cont'd)

- Fact: *Daniel believed that his destiny was in the hands of God.*
- A prime mark of the Christian mind is that it cultivates the eternal perspective.

Daniel's Tight Place (cont'd)

- Ephesians 1:11 (NKJV) declares this truth: *“In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will...”*

II. David's Tight Place

- Psalm 57:2-3 (NASB):

I will cry to God Most High,

*To God who accomplishes all things for
me.*

He will send from heaven and save me.

David's Tight Place (cont'd)

- Psalm 142:3 (NASB):

When my spirit was overwhelmed within me,

You knew my path

- Fact: *David believed that God was his source of protection and provision.*

III. Churchill's Tight Place

- “Facts are better than dreams.”
- Fact: *Churchill believed God existed and had a plan for the world.*

John 14:1-4 (NIV)

- *¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going.”*

Churchill's Tight Place (cont'd)

- **He is our source of peace** (v.1), *“Do not let your hearts be troubled.”*
- **He is our guarantee for the future** (v.3), *“I go and prepare a place for you...”*
- **He is our conquering King** (v.3), *“I will come back and take you to be with me...”*

IV. Black Leather Chair, Red-Letter Bible

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV):
- ¹⁶ *“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*

Black Leather Chair, Red-Letter Bible (cont'd)

- *It's God true Word* (“breathed out”)
- *It's God's revealing Word* (“for reproof & correction”)
- *It's God's practical Word* (“competent, equipped for every good work”)

Black Leather Chair, Red- Letter Bible (cont'd)

- “If Jesus had preached the same message that ministers preach today, He would have never been crucified.”

-Leonard Ravenhill

Invitation

- Do you need to turn your circumstances over to God today?
- Have you been “reproved” by the Word of God and need to get some things right this morning?