Sermon - Daniel (Pastor's Heroes of the Bible Series, Week 1)

Scripture - Rev 12:11, Daniel 6:10,

Main Message - Be Daniel: Unwavering Faithfulness to God and God's Holy Laws!

This week begins a series on Biblical Heroes and key attributes that are set as an example of a life of service to God. Each shows a particular quality that I will emphasize, though I'll tell you that most of them had many qualities. Week 1 is my Favorite from the Bible and a true Hero to be emulated. His name was Daniel. "God is my Judge"

Daniel prayed for understanding and always gave all Glory to God. The angel Gabriel even brought this statement, in chapter 9 vs 11. Imagine being called "greatly beloved" by and angel who stands in the presence of our Holy Father. Wow. How'd he get to that point?

Lots of reasons.

- 1) He never compromised on God's Holy Laws. Even when lions were about.
- 2) He always gave God the Glory. He Didn't interpret dreams.. God did.
- 3) He never loved his own life more than even death in order to serve God. He spoke truth always.
- 4) He always showed respect to the Four Rulers he served and in total honesty.
- 5) He was Faithful in prayer. Praying 3 times a day facing Jerusalem was his norm.
- 6) And finally, In all the Bible he was the only person with substantial history whose flaws we know nothing about. He even kept his diet perfect.

Let's look at some scripture. Chapter 9:3-19.

This section alone demonstrates a quality that each and every person who calls upon the name of the Lord and thinks themselves a Christian can do. Confess our sins, both personal, corporate, and as a nation. Pray for mercy and forgiveness because God has that in far more abundance than anyone.

In each of these messages for each of these heroes I will also make note and remind you of something.

It is by His Glory and Spirit and Grace that we have any chance of eternal life. It is through an abiding relationship with Jesus that we will be forgiven.

The human mind often twists things around to simplify. If you mind goes to a place where you think, "Hey, I'm doing what I can and if I can squeak into Heaven then I'm happy." Let me destroy that philosophy or mindset right now. There is no squeaking into heaven. The Bible tells us that many will say, "Lord Lord, didn't we do all these things for you? And in those cases, he said, I never knew you." It happens over and over again in the Bible. There is no squeaking in. If you're thinking that way, you are likely not developing the relationship as Daniel has done. That mindset gets you thrown into outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Here is an analogy for you. Back in the day, kids would play house. They would pretend to cook meals, pretend to clean up something, pretend to be domestic like they witness their parents do. But they were only playing. They weren't really doing it seriously. The game was just that, a game and once it got boring they moved onward to play cops and robbers.

I recommend Highly you read Daniel. It isn't a long book. Focus on how Daniel lives. This is your example.