

## Natural Resistance to Spiritual Possibilities

### 1 Corinthians 15:45-47, Daniel 6:3-4, 10, 20-27, Ecclesiastes 10:4

Everyone dreams. Whether you dream of owning your own business or graduating from university, your dream is usually closely related to your God-given purpose. Still, we shouldn't assume that fulfilling these dreams will be easy. In fact, God usually gives us impossibly possible dreams, meaning that they're possible only because nothing is impossible for God. God sees our impossibly possible dreams as opportunities to let us grow closer to him.

When walking into a spiritual possibility, we should remember that we will face natural resistance. We should take heart, though. God evaluates a situation based on a man or woman's heart, not natural circumstance. Likewise, we should never underestimate the importance of what's going on inside of ourselves.

For example, take Daniel from the Old Testament. Daniel was a righteous man who lived during the Babylonian Exile. In other words, Daniel was a man of spiritual possibility living in a land marked by natural resistance. Despite his circumstances, Daniel lived in such a way that God could honour.

Daniel was faithful; he consistently turned up. Daniel also prayed persistently, and with gratitude. Whether Daniel faced an impossible situation or an unexpected promotion, he could be found in service and prayer. He took his eyes off his problems so that he could give thanks to God. Likewise, God caused him to rise to the top. Daniel's heart was also credible—proven in the fire. When Daniel was thrown into a den of lions, it was because of his heart that God sent an angel to shut their mouths. Daniel's credibility caused the king of Babylon to have a change of heart, and influenced an entire kingdom.

Daniel lived full of faith. He believed God even when he faced resistance. He trusted God even in the midst of a den of hungry lions. Likewise, God brought him favour, deliverance, and blessing. Because of Daniel's heart, we're still discussing him thousands of years later! Never underestimate the value of spiritual investment and practice when it comes to facing natural resistance.

### *Church Highlights*

- Colour Conferences in South Africa
- Ps Bobbie's book "The Sisterhood"

### *Pray Together*

- Salvations - that people come to know Jesus.
- Pastors Brian and Bobbie Houston.
- For the multiplication of Connect Groups and Connect Group leaders.

### *Nation Builders*

We can make a difference as a connect group by praying for the Nation Builders causes we support and by giving together. Our offering extends the reach of our church locally to reach and influence the world for Jesus.

## Natural Resistance to Spiritual Possibilities

### **Connection and Action**

*Questions to promote conversation and connection*

#### **Spiritual Possibilities**

- Q** Why do you think our dreams are important to God?
- Q** How do we know we're dreaming a God-given dream?
- Q** What do you think is meant by Ps Brian's statement "God given possibility is always impossibly possible"?

#### **Natural Qualities**

- Q** What qualities does God look for in us as he makes our impossible dream possible? Why these qualities?
- Q** How well are you going with developing these qualities in your own life?

#### **Natural Resistance**

- Q** Give some examples of spiritual possibilities that can face natural resistance? Think of examples from the Bible and from real life.
- Q** What kind of resistance to your dreams are you experiencing?
- Q** What qualities do you need to display to overcome this resistance? Why?

### **Bible and Belief**

*Questions to help believers develop a biblical world view*

#### **Read the account of Daniel and the Lion's Den - Daniel 6**

- Q** Daniel distinguished himself by 'an excellent spirit' (v3 NKJV). What 'exceptional qualities' (NIV) did Daniel display?
- Q** Does excellence mean perfection? Discuss your thoughts.
- Q** What was the natural resistance Daniel faced? What motivated those who resisted him?
- Q** What was Daniel's response to that resistance?
- Q** What do we learn about Daniel's prayer life? What can we learn from his example?
- Q** What roles do you think Daniel's 'excellent spirit' and his custom of prayer played in his deliverance? What other factors might there have been?
- Q** What can we learn from Daniel's example here?
- Q** What 'customs' or 'qualities' do you need to add or remove from your life?

### **Growing Leadership**

*Questions to help people grow as leaders*

#### **Leadership and Professional Qualities**

- Q** In your leadership or professional life, how has God taken you beyond your own talents and abilities?
- Q** Using Daniel as an example, what have you learned from your leadership and / or professional experience about the value of:
  - the quality of your heart
  - excellence
  - faithfulness
  - faith and devotion
- Q** Again, using Daniel as an example and your own experience, what other qualities do you think epitomise an 'excellent spirit'?
- Q** Who are some leaders you know who demonstrate these qualities. Give some specific examples.
- Q** Consistency and conviction in leadership are a powerful combo. How are you going on these fronts? How can you improve?

### **Pastoral Care**

- We have a pastoral care team at church to walk alongside people through life's challenges
- With their permission, should anyone in your connect group experience sickness, death of a loved one, marriage challenges, or surgeries, please contact our church office: Sydney 02 8853 5353, Melbourne 03 9720 2099, Brisbane 07 3422 8500, Newcastle 02 4927 1888, Darwin 08 8932 3280