

## A Strong Faith – Teaching Notes

(Daniel 10:10-19; 1/28/18)

**Introduction:** A key idea in today's Sunday School material is that Daniel is receiving God's response to his prayers. Prayerfully, we will be challenged to work on our praying and responding to God's will.

### Body:

#### **Read Daniel 10:10-11**

**I. Faith Relieves Fear.** Daniel has an encounter with a heavenly messenger. Daniel starts off on his hands and knees in fear. After some assurance, he stands but is still trembling.

#### **Applications –**

- **Praying and trusting.** Notice in vss. 10-11 that God works in mysterious ways (a frightening messenger) to respond to our prayers. First, it should be a part of our daily routine to pray, in addition to rendering special prayer for special circumstances. If we believed this, we would be praying individually and collectively on a normal basis. Second, God responds when and how He deems to be best. Often God's response is slower than we want and not exactly what we had in mind. However, as we grow to trust Him, we learn that He is actually right on time and moving in the way that is best for us. *Let's work on praying and trusting God's response.*

#### **Read Daniel 10:12-14**

**II. Faith Welcomes Future.** The messenger explains his delay. The Lord was responsive to Daniel's prayer request. The messenger is about to explain the future to Daniel.

#### **Applications –**

- **Faith over fear.** Notice in vs. 12 that Daniel had enough faith to function, despite his fear. In like manner, we are called to have more faith in God than we have fear of what we see, think, and feel. Faith development is helped by our prayerfully studying and obeying the Bible with the support of other disciples. You may never be fearless. But you should strive to have more faith than fear. *Let's work on walking by faith, not fear of circumstances.*

- **Seeking God's will with humility.** Notice in vs. 12 that God responded to Daniel's prayer, when he set his mind to understand and humbled himself before God. In like manner, we should strive to understand what God wants us to do. This is different than trying to get God to do what we want Him to do. And we should humble ourselves before the Lord. This means we should see ourselves as servants of God who are seeking grace. We are not equals with God who come with demands. When this is really where we are coming from, God has a track record of responding. *Let's work on seeking God's will with humility.*

- **Spiritual warfare.** Notice in vs. 13 that there seems to be some spiritual warfare between God's messengers and the prince of the Persian kingdom. There is room for debate about is this the proper interpretation of this text. However, it is beyond debate that there is spiritual warfare going on – good versus evil. *Let's make sure that we are fighting on God's side.* This calls for making sure that we are saved and striving to live in obedience to God's word (i.e., love God and others, as we

love ourselves – see Mk. 12:29-31). It also calls for our being patient when physical things are being delayed because of spiritual matters.

### **Read Daniel 10:15-19**

**III. Faith Receives Strength.** Daniel bowed his face towards the ground, was weak, and was speechless. The one who looked like a man touched and spoke with Daniel. He also gave strength to Daniel.

#### **Applications –**

- **Honest with God’s representatives.** Notice in vss. 16-17 that Daniel is honest about his state of mind and body. In like manner, we should strive to be honest with God and His representatives. Acting like someone we are not is counterproductive. It is hard to build trusted relationships and to accomplish what God is calling us to accomplish as a team, when we don’t trust one another’s expressions about our state of mind and level of commitment. *Let’s aim to be honest with God and His representatives.*

- **Strengthen others.** Notice in vss. 18-19 that the representative strengthened Daniel with touch and words. In like manner, we should be open to God using us to strengthen and encourage others with touch and words. “Yes,” we have to be careful about appropriate touching. And “yes,” we need to speak the right words at the right time. However, we should not be so cautious that we stop allowing the Lord to strengthen others through our touch and words. We can start with enthusiastic worship and greeting one another warmly before and after worship services. *Let’s work on letting God strengthen others through our touch and words.*

**Conclusion:** Let’s work on praying and responding to God’s will. God has much for those who obey His will.