

The story of Daniel in the Old Testament is particularly relevant and instructive for us as modern-day Christians. The reason why? Because Daniel's story is much like that of all Christians—in reality and in potential. And that's surely no accident. In this series, we are looking at the highly instructive commonalities of Daniel's life in God to our lives in Christ. This is the ninth in that series—so let's briefly summarize the first eight.

First, Daniel was relevant to his *time and place*. Likewise, every serious Christian is, by God's providence, constantly in a time and place where God can very effectively use them for the purposes of His Kingdom.

Second, Daniel was *competent*. The Babylonian King was interested only in those who were competent. Likewise, Christians are best positioned to touch others for Christ in their work lives when very competent.

Third, Daniel was a *lifetime ambassador*. Daniel served pagan-kingdoms competently in very unique ways. But Daniel never stopped being a part of God's core economy: he was a lifetime ambassador for God.

Fourth, Daniel revealed his *relentlessly faithful dailiness*, which applies to every role we hold as believers.

Fifth, Daniel was great at *building bankable trust*. Our character and performance over a long period of time work to make our complete package “bankable”—and therefore transferable—to new opportunities.

Sixth, Daniel's *responses to calamities* were fantastic. We ourselves are making fresh acquaintances with calamities. And every one of Daniel's responses to calamities were amazingly perceptive and effective!

Seventh, Daniel expertly handled *unavoidable enemies and conflicts*. Jesus Himself promised that merely following Him creates enemies and conflicts! Daniel was superb at handling those very types of situations.

Eighth, Daniel's *fearless steadfastness*. Daniel steadfastly just trusted God, *only* God! And he was fearless in doing that.

Now, to the ninth relevancy of Daniel: *seek, reveal, speak*. That's right...*seek, reveal, speak*. In the book of Daniel, God chose to highlight some very significant events that happened during Daniel's decades-long tenure serving powerful kings. Those events were recorded in the book of Daniel, and that record includes key dimensions—yes, key *actions*—of important actions both God and His followers take. And that unfolding of the narrative is very instructive to us as Christians. Here are the three actions.

Let's start with *seek*. The people in this book of the Bible—whether Daniel, three Hebrew boys, or even a couple of pagan kings—sought to spark a response from God. In the book of Daniel, seeking God indeed provoked a response from God. Next, *reveal*. Key portions of the book of Daniel are God's direct revealing of dreams, mysteries, and prophecies. Then, *speak*. You see, *reveal* is not the same as *speak*. Over millennia, many have had a revelation from God, but far fewer fruitfully speak to others about it. In the book of Daniel, both Daniel and pagan kings speak powerfully about what's been revealed by God.

Why is this important? Because this pattern of *seek, reveal, and speak* is very much a pattern for us to cultivate in the New Covenant. So, together, let's take a look at several events in Daniel.

*King Nebuchadnezzar's dream.* When the wise men of King Neb's kingdom couldn't interpret his dream, the king commanded that all wise men in Babylon be destroyed...including Daniel. So Daniel rallied his companions to seek God's revelation about King Neb's dream. God revealed that mystery, and Daniel responded by speaking praises to God and then interpreting the dream *out loud*. Yes! *Seek, reveal, speak*.

*The fiery furnace.* Here, some Chaldeans maliciously accused Jews of not worshipping the golden image set up by the king. The Hebrew boys—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—stated that, indeed, they would only serve God and confidently sought His deliverance. Consequently, they were thrown into the fiery furnace. Well then, God revealed His miraculous response with the fourth man in the furnace and the three Hebrew boys emerging unsinged and unscathed! Here, the actions were there but the order was changed: speak of seeking God’s deliverance, then God reveals His hand doing just that!

*King Nebuchadnezzar’s second dream.* King Neb starts this event by speaking praises to God...amazing, a pagan praising God! King Neb then had a second dream, so he sought an interpretation by Daniel, who as the king said it clearly: Daniel “in whom is the spirit of the holy gods.” In due course, Daniel spoke the interpretation of the dream as revealed by God. Daniel sought and spoke God’s revelation!

*The handwriting on the wall.* King Neb’s son, King Belshazzar, hosted a great feast, and mysterious handwriting appeared on the wall. But the king’s wise men could not read or interpret the writing. The queen entered the banquet hall and spoke, remembering that “an excellent spirit, knowledge, and understanding to interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve problems were found in this Daniel.” So Daniel was called, and indeed, he did interpret the handwriting, in fact speaking the interpretation of the very imminent demise of the king and his kingdom. Daniel’s speaking relied upon a revelation, of course...a revelation spoken from the mouth of Daniel seeking after God’s understandings...as the queen said. That’s it: the seeking of God’s knowledge, the revealing by a faithful God, and the speaking of that revelation!

*Daniel and the lions’ den.* In this familiar story, King Darius was tricked by his officials into forging an ironclad declaration that would condemn Daniel for his petitions to God. When Daniel saw the king’s edict was installed, he immediately sought the Lord and gave thanks—in direct contradiction to the edict. You know the story—Daniel was saved from the lions. Yes, God revealed his will by sending an angel to shut the lions’ mouths, and Daniel spoke that truth to King Darius! That’s right—*seek, reveal, speak!*

*Daniel’s prayers for his people and his prophecy.* This one is simple yet profound. Daniel seeks for mercy from God for his people. In due time, Gabriel reveals God’s answer, and Daniel relays that insight in his prophecy about the Seventy Weeks. And of course, we now can read the fullness of Daniel’s prophecies in the closing chapters of the book of Daniel. There’s that pattern of actions—*seek, reveal, speak!*

So, how about today, for us? The Spirit of God was active in the life of Daniel, and these action verbs inhabiting the accounts in Daniel are clear. A person *seeks* after God. The Lord *reveals* what He wishes, through interpretations, understandings, discernments, and messages inspired by God. And the God-follower *speaks* forth the interpretations, the understandings, the discernments, the messages. Seek, reveal, speak. Profound. Profound. Profound. And, a privilege, privilege, privilege!

And that accessibility is exactly where God’s heart is today. The pattern runs all throughout the Bible for us. Like, seek first the Kingdom and His righteousness. Knock on the door and He will answer. Seek His will through prayer and petition. Seek after spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy. Then God reveals through His Word. His Spirit teaches all things to believers. Interpretations, discernments, understandings—all there, documented in the lives of believers, partakers in the New Covenant. Then we speak His glorious praises. We proclaim the gospel. We speak in the power of the Holy Spirit. And this...all of this...for each and every believer! Not limited to Daniel. Not limited to the Apostle Paul.

*Seek, reveal, speak.* Indeed, this Spirit-led life is the opportunity and privilege of every believer! Amazing!

## *A&A: Application & Action*

1. Speak to the ways that the Bible teaches us as Jesus-followers to Biblically *seek*. Make a list. How well are you personally joyfully executing this list? How well is your church doing executing this list for the glory of God?
2. List specific ways how you speak to others as to what God has revealed to you in the Word of God. Specifically, how often do you share this with Christian brothers and sisters...and those who don't yet believe in Jesus?
3. Sometimes Daniel would boldly speak what was revealed to him before the actual events occurred, like interpreting the handwriting on the wall and proclaiming several prophecies. Should we likewise expect to be "in the Spirit," speaking to others regarding God's revelation to us before God has actually orchestrated the revealed events? Why or why not? Be clear about your expectations and faith posture here.