

## **KEEPING THE FAITH**

### **LIFE ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- A. What Paul believed was important in his life **(2 Timothy 4:6-7 CSB)**
  - 1. He did not talk about the churches planted or people reached
  - 2. Fought a good fight - likened his life for the Lord as a fight
- B. Barnabus gives insight as to what is required to keep the faith **(Acts 11:23 NKJV)**
  - 1. He saw God's grace as people came to Christ
  - 2. He encouraged the believers to make a heart decision
  - 3. Keeping the faith is staying true to a person, not a religion

### **DANIEL'S DECISION**

- A. Forced into an environment that had no respect for God
  - 1. King Nebuchadnezzar from Babylon - besieged and captured Jerusalem
  - 2. Daniel and friends were given an opportunity to have a better life **(Daniel 1:3-7 NKJV)**
  - 3. There was a catch - abandon the faith, the ways of God
- B. Daniel purposed in his heart to continue to live for his God **(Daniel 1:8, 12-16 NKJV)**
  - 1. This decision was not about food quality but his relationship with God
  - 2. Requested a ten day test - not demanding or blasting Babylonian culture
  - 3. Not the easy path eating veggies for three years
- C. God honored Daniel and friends **(Daniel 1:17, 19-20 NKJV)**
  - 1. Gave them knowledge and what they needed to excel
  - 2. Caused them to stand out - they honored God, He got involved in their lives

### **KEEPING THE FAITH REQUIRES PURPOSE OF HEART**

- A. Purpose to not let your environment diminish your God - make Him smaller to you
  - 1. You may be in a situation where there is no respect for God or your faith in Him
  - 2. Daniel's secret - he prayed three times a day
  - 3. Purpose is to pray and read your Bible regularly **(Psalms 34:3 NKJV)**
- B. Purpose to live clean before God
  - 1. What you consume - take in
  - 2. What you do - the way you live your life
  - 3. Living clean is living strong **(Hebrews 12:1-2 CSB)**
- C. As you purpose in your heart to keep the faith - you honor God, and He will honor you
  - 1. He will get involved in your life
  - 2. This is not the easy path, but it's the best one