



February 10, 2018

100 Days of Faith Standing for Truth

Daniel 2:20-23 (NIV®)

²⁰ and said: "Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. ²¹ **He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.** ²² He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him."

Psalms 75:7 (NASB®)

⁷ But God is the Judge; He puts down one and exalts another.

I. Spiritual Struggles

Ephesians 6:12 (NASB®)

¹² For **our struggle is not against flesh and blood**, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

A. Pharaoh hardened his heart

Exodus 7:11-14 (NIV®)

¹¹ Pharaoh then summoned wise men and sorcerers, and the Egyptian magicians also did the same things by their secret arts: ¹² Each one threw down his staff and it became a snake. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs. ¹³ Yet Pharaoh's heart became hard and he would not listen to them, just as the LORD had said. ¹⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh's heart is unyielding; he refuses to let the people go.

B. Do not harden your hearts

Hebrews 3:14-16 (NIV®)

¹⁴ We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first. ¹⁵ As has just been said: "Today, if you hear his voice, **do not harden your hearts** as you did in the rebellion." ¹⁶ Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt?

II. Antichrist

1 John 4:3 (NIV®)

³but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

III. God's Sovereignty & His Church

Luke 1:52 (NIV®)

⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

Ephesians 3:8-10 (NASB®)

⁸To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; ¹⁰ so that **the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly *places*.**

A. How Should I Respond?

2 Corinthians 10:3-4 (NIV®)

³For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. ⁴**The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world.** On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

B. Revelation from God

Matthew 16:15-17 (NIV®)

¹⁵"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for **this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.**"

Ephesians 1:17 (NIV®)

¹⁷I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, **may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.**

IV. Spirit of Elijah to Confront the Spirit of Jezebel

A. God had someone to stand . . .

1 Kings 19:1-3 (NASB®)

¹Now Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ²Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and even more, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time."

Matthew 11:14 (NASB®)

¹⁴"And if you are willing to accept *it*, John himself is Elijah who was to come."

Luke 1:16-17 (NASB®)

¹⁶"And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God. ¹⁷It is he who will go *as a forerunner* before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

B. God will provide the strength for the challenge

Judges 6:13-14 (NIV®)

¹³"But sir," Gideon replied, "if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, 'Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the LORD has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian." ¹⁴The LORD turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?"

Psalms 71:16 (NKJV®)

¹⁶I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD; I will make mention of Your righteousness, of Yours only.

Prayer

"Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence on Thee. We beg Thy blessings upon us and our parents and our teachers and our country. Amen."

Our American Heritage---

"It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great Nation was founded not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religious, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For that reason alone, people of other faiths have been afforded freedom of worship here" ---Patrick Henry

"I am a real Christian, that is to say, a disciple of the doctrines of Jesus. I have little doubt that our whole country will soon be rallied to the unity of our Creator and, I hope, to the pure doctrine of Jesus also."

--- Thomas Jefferson

"It is impossible to govern the world without God and the Bible. Of all the dispositions and habits that lead to political prosperity, our religion and morality are the indispensable supporters. Let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that our national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

---from farewell speech of George Washington

"The highest glory of the American Revolution was this: it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity."

---John Quincy Adams (6th President)

Prayer was removed from public schools in 1962. Here is the prayer that was banished:

"Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence on Thee. We beg Thy blessings upon us and our parents and our teachers and our country. Amen."

In 1963, the Supreme Court ruled that Bible reading was outlawed as unconstitutional in the public school system. The court offered this justification:

"If portions of the New Testament were read without explanation, they could and have been psychologically harmful to children."