

## Common Ground 2020 - "Different is Good" - The Book of Daniel

### Week 5 "Develop your Inner Grit"

#### Daniel 7

#### Daily Devotion Sermon Questions

1. What are some things that excite you about the future? What are some things that cause you to worry about the future? Pastor Ted said that it's important that we know what to expect in the days ahead, so that we can persevere through them. **Read Daniel 7:13-14.** In his vision, Daniel sees four worldly empires, that are evil and cruel. However, he also saw that God wins in the end! While we don't know the hour or the day He will return, we do know that God is in control and Jesus is coming back to rule forever. How does this truth help strengthen your "inner grit" and gain a better perspective on handling the hard times of today?
2. Daniel 7 includes information about various earthly kingdoms, and the rise of the antichrist ("the little horn"). What are some things you learned about "the little horn?" (Refer to verses 8, 11, 20, 21, 24-26, and Revelation 13). What stands out to you, and why? Consider the following questions:
  - (a) What are some ways we might experience the spirit of the antichrist at work in our culture today?
  - (b) **Read verses 25-26.** What encouragement do you gain from these verses, that encourage you to develop your grit and persevere through those hard times?
  - (c) Knowing the enemy has declared war against us (the saints), what specific steps have you taken to prepare yourself for the battles that lie ahead?
3. **Read Daniel 7:9-14.** What aspects of God's nature and power are suggested by Daniel's description in these verses? How does knowing the "Ancient of Days" enable you to be filled with hope and peace in the midst of an unstable world and personal struggles?
4. **Read verses 9-10.** Discuss how Daniel's description highlights God's character. **Read Psalm 90:2 and Psalm 102:25-27.** What additional characteristics stand out?

Throughout this series, Pastor Dave has stressed the value of Daniel's relationship with God, and in this week's message, Pastor Ted reminds us that knowing God sits on the throne in heaven, gives us the inner grit we need to persevere another day. Think back to your life BEFORE you had a relationship with Christ, and share with your group:

- When hard times and challenges came your way, how did you cope?
- What was your source of "inner grit?"
- What were the things that you put your hope in?

Has your relationship with Christ been strengthened and/or grown in the midst of this study on Daniel? In the midst of this pandemic? In the midst of suffering? Discuss the difference your relationship with Christ has made -- specifically, how has He helped you stand firm (and hopeful) in the face of hard times and challenges.

5. Have you found yourself worrying more than usual lately? Pastor Ted stated, "God has seen it all before and none of this is happening without His knowledge or consent. God isn't phased by what He sees. How does all you've learned this week help calm your worries about the future? What lessons have you learned from Daniel's example (how did he handle stressful situations?) that have helped you to handle difficult times more faithfully? What changes have you made in your own life?

**APPLICATIONS:**

1. Daniel mentioned being deeply troubled over the vision of the coming judgement. On a scale of 1-10 (with 1 being “not at all” and 10 being “deeply”) consider how troubled you are by the direction of your culture? What are some things you could do about it this week?
  
2. Pastor Ted stated that God gives us prophecy to help us decide what to do with the time He’s given us. We all need to decide what to do with the time we have. Below are 3 questions Pastor Ted suggested, to help us think through this:
  - Do you believe all this? If so, it will affect how you live.
  - Do you see things from YOUR perspective or GOD’S perspective? Do you have a NOW perspective or an ETERNAL perspective?
  - Does how you live line up with that perspective? Two important considerations are how you spend your time and money.