

ATTRIBUTES WE NEED

What do Daniel, Nathan, Job, and Paul have in common? Courage, boldness, patience, and fortitude.

Their strong faith enabled them to weather difficult times, confront rulers, endure physical pain, and face overwhelming opposition.

We may never be in such dire circumstances, but we can learn from their actions.

We gain insight and wisdom that will help us better handle our own life.

DANIEL. Dan.6:1-10

He was opposed by cunning men. :4-5

They cared little about him praying to God. They wanted to “do him in.”

Knowing the decree, he continued worshiping and usual. :10

ATTRIBUTE WE NEED: courage of convictions.

Worshiping and praying may not be forbidden, but they are under attack by some.

We need to have courage of convictions that cause us to assemble regularly, pray always, and let our light shine. *(The greatest need for light is where there is darkness. Be aware that some do not want the light to shine. Joh.3:19-20)*

NATHAN. 2Sa.12:1-7a

In a straightforward way he confronted the king.

Such confrontation is not pleasant for either person; nor is it usually welcomed.

ATTRIBUTE WE NEED: boldness to call it like it is.

Immorality, godlessness needs to be shown for what it is.

Pussyfooting around sin (using euphemisms), helps no one.

Hedging about telling others the truth of the Gospel, weakens our message.

We are not be concerned with what “they” might think, but with what God said.

JOB. Job.1;21-22, 2:9-10

He agonized over what happened to him, but held on to his faith.

Many happenings seem illogical and unexplainable.

Some things that happen to us are not fair or right.

“Why has the way of the wicked prospered? Why are all those who deal in treachery at ease?”

Jer.12:1b

Not all goes as planned or as we want. (Rom.1:13–Paul wanted to go to Rome, but was hindered).

ATTRIBUTE WE NEED: patience to put up with adversity, even prolonged adversity.

Hang in there, realizing that in the end we will be victorious. Rom.8:31-37

It’s being victorious that counts.

PAUL. Act.21:10-14

In the face of danger and death, he pressed on.

ATTRIBUTE WE NEED: fortitude to do what needs to be done.

Unwilling to let anything or anybody deter.

Understanding that anything worthwhile takes effort.

Refusing to entertain any thought of compromise or appeasement.

Not despairing and thinking “I’m the only one.” (“Elijah syndrome”)

COURAGE, BOLDNESS, PATIENCE AND FORTITUDE

These help us be what we want to be, what we ought to be, what the Lord wants us to be.

Nothing more vitalizing than being able to maintain a godly life. 2Ti.1:8-12

We develop these characteristics by practice (doing).