

Bible Study Handout

“Why We Need an Excellent Spirit”

Main Text: Book of Daniel 6:1–5

Key Scripture

“Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him...”

— Daniel 6:3 (KJV)

Introduction

An excellent spirit is more than talent, education, or gifting. It is a spirit of integrity, faithfulness, humility, wisdom, and consistency that reflects the character of God in every area of life.

Daniel lived in a corrupt culture, yet he maintained a godly testimony. His excellent spirit caused kings to trust him, enemies to fear him, and God to elevate him.

What Is an Excellent Spirit?

An excellent spirit is:

- A mindset of integrity
- A heart committed to God
- Consistent faithfulness
- Spiritual maturity
- Wise and disciplined behavior
- A life that honors God publicly and privately

Study Point 1 — An Excellent Spirit Will Distinguish You

Daniel 6:3

“Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him...”

Daniel did not stand out because of favoritism. He stood out because of character.

Supporting Scriptures

- Book of Proverbs 22:29

"Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings..."

- Gospel of Matthew 5:16

"Let your light so shine before men..."

- Book of Genesis 41:38–40

Joseph was promoted because the Spirit of God was in him.

Discussion Question

What qualities made Daniel different from everyone else around him?

Study Point 2 — An Excellent Spirit Remains Faithful Under Pressure

Daniel 6:4

"They could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful..."

Daniel's enemies investigated his life and could not find corruption.

Supporting Scriptures

- First Epistle to the Corinthians 4:2

"It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."

- Epistle to the Colossians 3:23

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord..."

- Book of Psalms 101:6

"Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land..."

Life Application

An excellent spirit keeps the same character whether people are watching or not.

Study Point 3 — An Excellent Spirit Will Be Tested

Daniel 6:5

"We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God."

Daniel's faithfulness to God became the target of attack.

Supporting Scriptures

- Second Epistle to Timothy 3:12

"All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

- First Epistle of Peter 1:7

The trying of your faith is more precious than gold.

- Epistle of James 1:2–4

Trials develop patience and maturity.

Discussion Question

Why do you think excellence often attracts opposition?

Study Point 4 — An Excellent Spirit Is Rooted in Prayer

Daniel 6:10

"He kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed..."

Daniel's public strength came from his private prayer life.

Supporting Scriptures

- First Epistle to the Thessalonians 5:17

"Pray without ceasing."

- Gospel of Luke 18:1

Men ought always to pray and not faint.

- Book of Isaiah 40:31

"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength."

Life Application

You cannot maintain an excellent spirit without spiritual discipline.

Study Point 5 — An Excellent Spirit Leads to Divine Promotion

Daniel 6:28

"So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius..."

God honored Daniel openly because Daniel honored God privately.

Supporting Scriptures

- First Book of Samuel 2:30

"Them that honor me I will honor..."

- Book of Proverbs 3:3–4

Faithfulness brings favor with God and man.

- Gospel of Matthew 25:21

“Well done, thou good and faithful servant...”

Signs of an Excellent Spirit

- Integrity
- Dependability
- Humility
- Consistency
- Wisdom
- Discipline
- Faithfulness
- Prayerfulness
- Godly attitude
- Servant leadership

Reflection Questions

1. What areas of my life need greater excellence?
2. Am I faithful even when nobody notices?
3. How do I respond under pressure?
4. Is my prayer life strong enough to sustain me?
5. What testimony am I leaving before others?

Conclusion

Daniel teaches us that an excellent spirit can elevate you in hostile environments, preserve you during attacks, and position you for divine favor. God is not only looking for gifted people; He is looking for faithful people with an excellent spirit.

Your gift may open the door, but your spirit determines how long you stay there.

Closing Prayer

“Lord, develop in me an excellent spirit. Help me to walk in integrity, faithfulness, humility, and consistency. Let my life honor You in public and in private. Strengthen me to stand under pressure and remain committed to You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”