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### Letters to the Church during COVID-19: 10 June 2020

To the Church Family at KBC,

I hope you are well and that the joy of the Lord is your strength in this season. During our service on Sunday, while talking about growing the character of patience and steadfastness, the text in James pointed us to look at the example of the prophets. And one of the prophets that came to mind was Daniel. Here is a man that we would never even have heard about if it wasn't for the lockdown of Israel in Babylon. If life had just gone on as normal for Daniel, if there were no exile, his story would never have been written and we would be poorer for it. But it did happen, and we are richer for it because the Book of Daniel has incredible encouragement for us in this season. In one sense the book answers a great question we should all be asking ourselves: **what can I start doing now to ensure that I will be better for it later?** Let me suggest a few things from Daniel, three this week and three next week.

Firstly, look after your body. I know it sounds pretty simple right, but it is important. In the first chapter of Daniel we see him resolving not to defile his body with royal food and wine (1:8) and to eat only vegetable and drink water (1:12). Now I am not suggesting that we should become vegetarians but what the text does encourage us to do, in a very practical sense, is look after our bodies. And we will be better for it (1:15) not only physically but spiritually as well. We often miss the fact that we live our spiritual life out of the power pack of our bodies, if we don't look after our bodies and let ourselves get run down, then the likelihood is this will affect our spiritual fervour serving the Lord. What can you start doing now to ensure that you will be better for it later? Look after your body.

Secondly discover and use your gifts. Chapter 2 of Daniel is all about Daniel using his gift to interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream which ultimately resulted in many lives being saved (2:12) and King Nebuchadnezzar acknowledging the power of God (2:47). Paul's teaching in Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12 is clear that every child of God is given a gift of the spirit to use to further the Kingdom of God and build up the church. Discovering what our gifts are and then using them to build up the church is an incredibly life-giving practice that we can enjoy as Christians. To know that we have played a part in serving the church is such an incredible privilege. So, what can you start doing now to ensure you will be better for it later? Discover what your gift is and begin working out how you will be able to use it. This is a great season for us to be seeking God and asking Him, where He would like us to serve when church starts up again. There are plenty of opportunities on a Sunday alone: in

kids work, as a steward, serving refreshments and doing it all to the glory of God and so others praise Him as Nebuchadnezzar did.

Thirdly resolve to trust God no matter what and believe that He is working out His purposes for our good (Romans 8:28). The first chapters of Daniel are all about trust. Chapter 1, Daniel is dragged off to a foreign country and placed on lockdown and he trusts God. In chapter 2, Daniel trusts God to reveal the meaning of the dream that the king had. In chapter 3, Daniel's friends are thrown in a furnace and they express trust in God and His deliverance. In chapter 4, Daniel again has to interpret a dream and then deliver a difficult interpretation, trusting God. In chapter 5, we see kings have come and gone but Daniel, who trusts God, is still standing and held in high esteem. In chapter 6, we join Daniel in the lion's den, where the mouths of the lions were shut as Daniel trusted in God. What can you start doing now to ensure that you will be better for it later? Set your heart to trust God and believe that in this season, He is at work for our good and for His glory according to His purposes.

These three lessons require action, if we want to emerge from this season stronger and better for it, then we need to be asking ourselves, what small things can I change now so that I will be better for it later? It's a good question and I pray that God would give you the grace to take the necessary steps.

Grace be yours in abundance!

Stu

#KeepTrusting #KeepConnected #Call4Support

### **Notices and Upcoming events on Zoom:**

Thursday: Unpack the Preach discussion.

Friday: Children and Youth on line for those aged 11+ at 7pm.

Sunday: 10:30am, Sunday Morning Service (we will open the room at 10am for people to gather to chat and leave it open after the service for people to chat as well).

Sunday: 7pm, there will be a time of worship until about 8.30pm led by a few of us from the music group. It's very informal, but an opportunity to worship God in song.

Thursday 25 June: Church meeting for members.

**KBC YouTube channel:** Here you will find our new daily mini devotional series 'Therefore..' and back copies of Stu's daily devotional series 'You are....' and our sermons each week. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0IqZEJkxDYGSQCQCw6onJw/featured>

**Resources:** Do not forget to check out our resources page on our website, which is constantly being updated, including resources for families and activities for children and youth: <https://kingswoodbaptistchurch.co.uk/resources/>