

Lesson 5 – The GENIUS of Discipline

Most overnight successes are 20 years in the making.

There's something about discipline and consistency over a long period of time that makes it a multiplying factor - long obedience in the same direction.

Daniel 6:3-10

³Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole real.

⁴Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

⁵Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.

⁶Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever.

⁷All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

⁸Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

¹⁰“Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.”

The differentiating factor for Daniel was not his favor or his talent, but it was his discipline. His spiritual discipline through prayer and keeping the law.

Daniel tethered his prosperity and his protection to his spiritual discipline. **Can that be said for us?**

Daniel did not want his prosperity and his well-being to be connected to a foreign god. Daniel wanted his success and his prosperity to be tied to HIS God.

The Genius of discipline is a force multiplier.

To be submitted to God is to go against the grain of culture. Do you know how hard that is to do by yourself? But when you do it with friends and other people who are submitted just like you, then it becomes extremely easier.

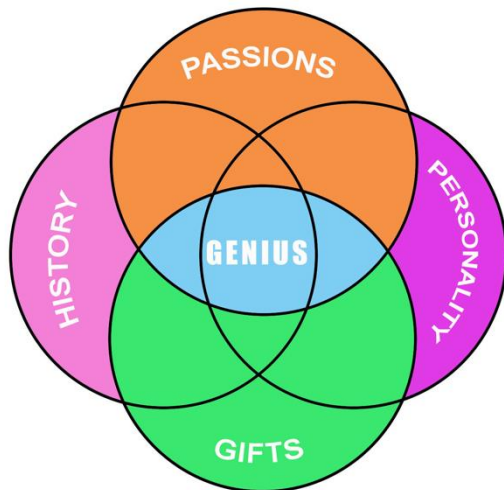
Your community is fully invested in a different way and they're the people who will help you be successful.

Daniel understands that his spiritual discipline is connected to his **prosperity**.

Daniel understands that his **protection** is tethered to his spiritual discipline.

Just like self-promotion is an idol, self-preservation is too.

It's not your job to protect yourself, it's God's. It's **your** job to be submitted to HIM!!



PASSION + PERSISTENCE = GRIT

Hope is a rising to the occasion kind of perseverance.

The Genius of discipline, this idea of passion plus perseverance is a full submission and hope to allow the God of the entire universe to be at work in and through us.

Do the disciplines by which you live your life reflect that the God of the universe is in control?