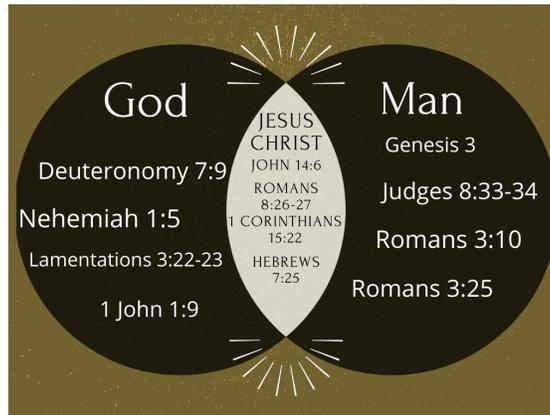


## Going Deeper

### Daniel 10 & 11

## Fasting Turned to Feasting

1. Throughout the whole book of Daniel, especially Daniel 10 & 11, what has God shown us about staying faithful in the midst of a culture, a kingdom of unfaithfulness?



2. Daniel clearly displays to us how obedience to God and staying faithful to Him doesn't necessarily prevent suffering. It does, however, stimulate suffering. In other words, our suffering turns into feasting, into joy, through our submission, our humility, and our faithfulness to God. What has faithfulness or unfaithfulness looked like for you in your sufferings? How have you experienced God in the midst of suffering? See **Zechariah 8:18-23** & **John 16:20** for more.

*"We have substituted theological ideas for an arresting encounter; we are full of religious notions but our great weakness is that for our hearts there is no one there." "Knowledge by acquaintance," Tozer affirms, "is always better than mere knowledge by description."*

3. If in our humility and obedience to God we receive meaning, we are able to see how beloved we are by God. If we submit to our culture, the kingdom surrounding us, and the world of our time, where are we told our value is? What makes us beloved if we submit to something outside of Jesus Christ?

*It did not do Daniel any harm to know that he was greatly beloved of God; or else he would not have received that information from heaven. Some people are always afraid that, if Christian people obtain full assurance, and receive a sweet sense of divine love, they will grow proud, and be carried away with conceit. Do not you have any such fear for other people, and especially do not be afraid of it for yourselves. I know of no greater blessing that can happen to any man and woman here, than to be assured by the Spirit of God that they are greatly beloved of the Lord. Such knowledge might do some of us, who are Christians, the greatest conceivable good. Daniel was not injured by knowing that he was greatly beloved. It has often been said that Daniel is the John of the Old Testament, and John is the Daniel of the New Testament. Those two men, Daniel and John, were choice saints. They rose to the greatest height of spiritual obedience, and then to the greatest height of spiritual enjoyment.*

- Charles Spurgeon

4. If the kingdom of self will continually fail us and the Kingdom of God, which is eternal, will inevitably be established, how can we submit to God's will and Kingdom other than fasting? How do we position ourselves in anticipation for God to work both now and in the future? What does this look like within your work, family, relationship?

*Tom Wright on Mark 2:19 – “Yes, there will be a very strange moment when I am taken away. It is to not look backward to the temple and fast but look forward to the new kingdom to come.*