



In what ways would a Christian diplomat act differently from those who believe otherwise?

Last week we saw how “Prime Minister” Daniel, the Old Testament prophet, made a *critical decision of godly leadership*. He chose to do the right and the good instead of the convenient and expedient. He chose to follow his God instead of the crowd. The result? His adversaries were silenced and Daniel was promoted—but there was more.

The impact of his lifetime of faithfulness to God is evident in Daniel’s influence on King Darius (who praised Daniel’s God) and the citizens of the empire (who were told to reverence the God of Daniel). Read Daniel 6 for the whole story!

Daniel’s life substantiates an important principle: as the leader goes, so goes the nation...for good or for bad. In the 1830’s, French diplomat Alexis de Tocqueville toured America, seeking for the secret of her greatness. Upon his return to France, he made this profound and oft-quoted observation:

I sought for the key to the greatness of America in her harbors . . .; in her fertile fields and boundless forests; in her rich mines and vast world commerce; in her public school system and institutions of learning. I sought for it in her democratic Congress and in her matchless Constitution. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits aflame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.

One leader said, “If your faith doesn’t matter today, then it’s a useless faith.” Saint Augustine describes the person who is distant from God: “Lord, You have made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.” On the other hand, God has promised that if you “draw near to God, He will draw near to you” (James 4:8).

Faith matters today. The implications are eternal, but there are also benefits for today—for you and those in your sphere of influence.

1. *What do the following tell you about faith?*

Hebrews 11:1

Romans 10:17

2 Corinthians 5:7

2. *What are some of the challenges you encounter?*

1 John 2:15-17

James 1:2-4

1 Peter 5:8-9

3. *Our faith is more than blind belief. It is trust in God and His Word. What benefits result from living according to the Bible?*

Psalms 119:9-11

Psalms 19:8-11

*“O May the words of my mouth and the mediation of my heart be pleasing in your sight,
O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer.”*

(Psalm 19:14)