*From the Pastor’s desk:*

**UNWAVERING FAITH AND OBEDIENCE**

“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat....” (Dan 1:8 KJV)

In Daniel 1, we see a glimpse of a young man who is consistently obedient to the instructions of God and has unwavering faith in the fulfilment of God’s plan. We first see this when he, along with his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, are amongst those called to partake in Babylonian ways of life.

They are expected to speak the language, partake in their practices and even eat food that is not holy according to ancient Hebrew law. Of course, they are not to refuse this instruction from their rulers on Earth, but they are also mindful to heed the instructions of God Most High, their ruler in Heaven. It is here we see that Daniel is not compromising yet is abiding with both the expectations of God and King Nebuchadnezzar.

By refusing to eat the unholy food, Daniel risked punishment as severe as death and the official was also at risk of this. However, Daniel trusted that God would not disappoint. Sure enough, the vegetables Daniel and his friends ate in place of the king’s delicacies proved to have a better effect on their bodies. They were seen as the best of the best and were promoted in a foreign setting.

In the same way, we should also be mindful of how we conduct ourselves in the presence of unbelievers. Daniel and his friends did not abandon the sayings of God, and they did not completely disobey the king. At the end of the day, all parties were satisfied and the reward Daniel and his friends received was far greater than they would have imagined. Why? Because they stayed strong in their faith and remained obedient to God, trusting completely on his promises and in the end, it worked out perfectly for them. We should learn from this example and show the same unwavering faith in our daily endeavours. May God help us all in Jesus’ Name. *- By Sister Nancy*