

GRACIOUS RESISTANCE

“Rewarding Discernment”

ASSUMPTION

We have long assumed that we lived in God's kingdom by the fact that we live in America.

Discernment is necessary for the gracious resistance of defilement.

THERE IS A FORCE (RULE OF FEAR)

There is a force that operates out of deficiency & takes to build worth and value.

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

- Daniel makes a deal about his diet. He excels. He is promoted.
- King Nebuchadnezzar has a nightmare and want it interpreted.
- He expects his wise men to tell him the dream and interpret it.
- If they can't, he's going to kill them all.

A Side Note:

The way of the world is governed by the Rule of Fear.
A Transactional Arrangement will end up in Ultimatums!

Daniel 2:14-16 NIV

14 When Arioch, the commander of the king's guard, had gone out to put to death the wise men of Babylon, Daniel spoke to him with *wisdom and tact*. 15 He asked the king's officer, "Why did the king issue such a harsh decree?" Arioch then explained the matter to Daniel. 16 At this, Daniel went in to the king and asked for time, so that he might interpret the dream for him.

Daniel 2:17-23 NIV

17 Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. 18 He urged them to plead for *mercy* from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. 19 During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven 20 and said:

“Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his.
21 He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others.
He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.
22 He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness,
and light dwells with him.
23 I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors: You have given me wisdom and power,
you have made known to me what we asked of you,
you have made known to us the dream of the king.

James 3:13-16 NIV

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

THE WATER

- Endless Comparison
- Endless Competition

Where these motives govern our activity, disorder follows.

THE REWARD

Wisdom yields Responsibility.

Wisdom is given to understand the Kingdom of God and the way of this rule in this world.

THERE IS ANOTHER FORCE

Rule of Fear

There is a force that operates out of deficiency & takes to build worth and value.

Rule of Love

There is a force that operates out of abundance and gives everything to breath worth & value.