

***What To Do When You Are Pressured To Conform!
Bold: Learning To Live With An Audacious Faith! Pt.2***

Daniel 1:5-19
September 17, 2017

Daniel 1:3, *Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility—⁴young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. ⁵The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service... ⁷The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Beltshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.*

Proverbs 17:3, *The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests the heart.*

Three Characteristics Daniel Demonstrated:

Daniel 1:8, *But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.*

1. Inner RESOLVE

Romans 12:2, *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.*

2. Personal DISCIPLINE

Romans 6:13, *Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer*

every part of yourself to Him as an instrument of righteousness.

3. Public COURAGE

1 Corinthians 16:13, *Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.*

Daniel's Wise Approach In A Pagan World:

➤ **Genuine HUMILITY**

Daniel 1:8, *But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. ⁹Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel, ¹⁰but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you."*

➤ **Practical WISDOM**

Daniel 1:11, *Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, ¹²"Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink."¹³Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see."¹⁴So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.*

The Outcome:

Daniel 1:15, *At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food... ¹⁷To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning... ¹⁹The king talked with them, and he found none equal ... so they entered the king's service.*

- **God Honoring Decisions, Produce God Given Rewards
And INFLUENCE**

Proverbs 16:7, *When a man's ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.*