

Pack Your Faith

Daniel 1:8 But Daniel was determined not to defile himself by eating the food and wine given to them by the king. He asked the chief of staff for permission not to eat these unacceptable foods.

As you move to your next, be determined to Pack your Faith.

- Determination Defined: firm or fixed intention to achieve a desired end. Merriam-Webster
- *Daniel 1;1-6* King Nebuchadnezzar besieged Judah where Daniel and his family lived and took them to a new land Babylon as captives.
- Daniel was to be trained in the traditions and literature of Babylon... for three years.
- *Daniel 1;1-4* The king deports them more than 520 miles away from their home. (The equivalent of Columbus to Chicago)
- As you move to your next... whether school, military, or job **you will be different**. Different doesn't have to mean a disadvantage.

I. ACQUIRING YOUR NEXT... DOES NOT REQUIRE ABANDONING TRUTH.

- Being determined to embrace your differences may make all the difference.

Daniel 1: 4 "Select only strong, healthy, and good-looking young men," he said. "Make sure they are well versed in every branch of learning, are gifted with knowledge and good judgment, and are suited to serve in the royal palace. **Train these young men in the language and literature of Babylon.**"

- When Daniel was in a new place that he had no control over, he was determined to rely on his faith and home training.

A. Do not forget your Faith and Home Training.

1. Daniel was wise before being trained the prerequisite before he went to school. This was because of his home training.

- a. Your first training is most important.
- b. At Home
- c. At Church/Community

“Train a child up in the way that they should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” *Proverbs 22:6*.

- 2. In expanding his knowledge, Daniel held on to what he was taught. Embracing what he was taught meant he was different. However, this determination to hold to this truth made all the difference.

Daniel 1:12;15 Instead of the king’s food which I’m sure was wonderful, he and his friends ate a diet of vegetables and water... **after ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than their classmates.**

- While moving into a new phase be determined as Daniel not to abandon truth because it makes you different, it’s that difference that may make all the difference.
- While moving to your next phase, Pack your Faith... your faith will take you further.

II. BE DETERMINED TO INCLUDE YOUR SALVATION WHILE PURSUING YOUR VOCATION

- Salvation - refers to the deliverance or rescue of humanity from sin, separation from God, and the consequences of wrongdoing. For Christians, this is demonstrated through our faith in Jesus Christ.
- Vocation - a person's employment or main occupation, especially regarded as particularly worthy and requiring great dedication.

A. Salvation and Vocation do not have to operate independently of each other.

B. Salvation and vocation are meant to intersect, helping you to discern.

- The Lord will help you to discern the time and properly understand how to connect your vocation with your salvation.
- *II Timothy 2:5* And athletes cannot win the prize unless they follow the rules.
- *II Timothy 2:7* “Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.”

C. Your Salvation/Faith positively impacts your vocation.

- Faith is a Pathway to your Fortune.
- Fortune defined favorable outcome... good Fortune.
- Daniel’s Faith was the catalyst for his fortune.

Daniel 1:18-20 At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁹ The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king’s service. ²⁰ In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

- The common denominator was simply OBEDIENCE to God. It takes faith to be obedient, especially when trained to do something.
- “A ton of prayer will not produce what an ounce of obedience will.” Dr. Ed Cole.

Book: “It’s the Walk, not the Talk”. Bishop La Fayette Scales

As you leave to go off to college, trade school, work, military... take your salvation with you to your vocation. Pack your Faith in your vocation as a pathway to fortune.

*Rhema Christian Center
Graduation Sunday
Bryan O. Steward, ESQ, MBA
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