

Growing In Moral Excellence

2 Peter 1:5-8 (NLT)

*In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. **Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence**, and moral excellence with knowledge,⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness,⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone.⁸ The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Moral excellence speaks of having behavior that demonstrates high **ethical** standards.

Moral excellence speaks of **aligning** our thinking, feeling, and doing with the Word of God.

Daniel is a biblical model of how we can **grow** in moral excellence.

I.

We grow in moral excellence by establishing convictions in our life.

Convictions are strongly held **beliefs** that guide our choices.

Daniel 1:8a (GNT) says, *"Daniel made up his mind not to let himself become ritually unclean by eating the food and drinking the wine of the royal court"*

Having strong convictions will keep us from being wishy washy.

James 1:8 (KJV) says, *"A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."*

People tend to **respect** us when we have convictions and standards we live by.

Daniel 1:9 (NLT) says, *"Now God had given the chief of staff both respect and affection for Daniel."*

II.

We grow in moral excellence by being courageous in the face of opposition

It takes courage to **separate** from the crowd and be different.

Daniel 6:3 (NKJV) says, *"Then this Daniel **distinguished** himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm."*

It takes courage to still **choose** your faith when you know the cost of your decision.

Daniel 6:7 says, *"⁷ The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions' den."*

The good news is, we can be courageous because we know God is with us.

Daniel 6:21-22 (NIV) says, *Daniel answered, "May the king live forever! ²² My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty."*

III.

We grow in moral excellence by developing Christlike character

As Christians, we should all strive to be people of good character.

Daniel 6:4 (CEV) says, *“The other men tried to find something wrong with the way Daniel did his work for the king. But they could not accuse him of anything wrong, because he was honest and faithful and did everything he was supposed to do.”*

Zig Ziglar once said, “Ability will take you to the top, but only character will keep you there.”

To build character, God takes us through the process of sanctification to conform us to the image of Jesus.

Romans 8:29 (NIV) says, *“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.”*

Rhema Christian Center

Pastor Tony Ransom

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