

HOW TO ENJOY SUCCESS WITHOUT COMPROMISE

746dt

TEXT: Daniel 1:8-16; 6:1-10

INTRODUCTION

1. The Bible is filled with accounts of many godly men and women who are worthy of our recognition.
2. One such person is Daniel, a man who obtained preeminence and power in his lifetime:
 - a. He started out preeminent among the children of Israel – **Daniel 1:3-6.**
 - b. He gained preeminence among the wise of men of Babylon – **Daniel 1:17-20.**
 - c. He was given power over all of Babylon - **Daniel 2:48-49; 5:29.**
 - d. He received similar power over the Medo-Persian empire – **Daniel 6:1-3, 28.**
3. How was Daniel able to reach these positions of power and influence without compromising his position as a godly man?
4. A close look at the book of Daniel reveals his secret, and shows how we too can be successful without compromising our faith.

I. DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PURPOSE

- A. As a young man in a strange land, Daniel was immediately faced with a challenge to violate God's law by eating the king's food.
- B. Despite his youth and the obvious pressures to conform, Daniel "purposed in his heart" to uphold the law of God, no matter the cost – **Daniel 1:8**
- C. Because of his willingness to put God first, God granted Daniel favor in the sight of others - **Daniel 1:9.**
- D. Every Child of God needs to be a person of purpose.
 1. No one respects someone who lacks direction in their life.
 2. A strong sense of purpose will earn respect and admiration from others.
 3. What should be the "purpose" of the Christian?
 4. Jesus makes it clear in **Matthew 6:33** - We are to seek the will of God and fulfill it in our lives, no matter the circumstances.
 5. This will guarantee God's favor toward us and gain us favor in the eyes of those around us.

II. DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PRINCIPLE

- A. He refused to compromise his convictions.
 1. As a young man he refused to eat the king's meat – **Daniel 1:8.**
 2. As an old man he refused the gifts of Belshazzar – **Daniel 5:13-17.**
 3. Under the threat of persecution, he refused to obey the decree of Darius - **Daniel 6:10.**
- B. People admire people of principle.
 1. Outwardly they may ridicule them, but inwardly they wish they had the same intestinal fortitude.
 2. And when they need someone that can be trusted, it is those of principle they turn to.
 3. God admires individuals who will stand by their principles.
- C. Our society is in great need of people with principle.

III. DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PURITY

- A. His opponents could not find any fault.
 - 1. He was faultless in his business affairs – **Daniel 6:1-4**.
 - 2. This would help to explain his rise to positions of great responsibility and power.
 - 3. Of course, his purity in business affairs was related to his purpose to please God first and the fact that he could be trusted.
- B. The Christian is also to maintain purity of conduct.
 - 1. Whether young or old - **1 Timothy 4:12**.
 - 2. People who maintain purity in their dealings with others are often given positions of great responsibility and privilege, because they can be trusted.
 - 3. Daniel was a man of purpose, principle, and purity.

IV. DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PRAYER

- A. Look at **Daniel 6:10**.
 - 1. He knelt in prayer, a demonstration of his humility.
 - 2. He prayed three times daily, a demonstration of his continual dependence upon God.
 - 3. He gave thanks in the midst of persecution, a demonstration of his gratitude and the fact that he had not lost sight of God's blessings.
 - 4. His prayers demonstrated his persistence and faithfulness in his service to God.
- B. Christians are to follow Daniel's example.
 - 1. As Christians, we too are to pray often - **1 Thessalonians 5:17-18; Colossians 4:2**.
 - 2. In our efforts to live a life of purpose, principle, and purity let us not forget how important a life of prayer is.

CONCLUSION

- 1. There is a false assumption that to "get ahead" in this world one must conform to the sinful practices of the world.
- 2. We can succeed in life without compromising our values if we do it God's way.