The Courage to Stand by Your Convictions

**KEY PASSAGE:** Daniel 6:10-26  | **SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:** Daniel 2:48-49; 3:16-18; 4:19, 22-29; 5:29-31; 6:28  
2 Corinthians 6:17

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**SUMMARY**

A conviction is a belief that is considered true and worthy of maintaining regardless of the consequences.

However, today we live in a generation that is being persuaded that there are no absolute moral truths. Instead of relying upon the truths in the Bible, each person is left to decide what is right in his own eyes. Because there are no standards, our society has become ungodly, immoral, unsafe, and worthy of God’s judgment. We need to turn from this dangerous situation and stand firmly, without compromise, for our biblical beliefs.

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**SERMON POINTS**

Daniel is a perfect example of a man who lived according to his strong scriptural convictions. He was willing to stand for them even when doing so could have cost him his life.

**Courage is needed to fulfill God’s assignments for our lives.**

When King Nebuchadnezzar conquered the nation of Israel, he took several young people to Babylon to train and indoctrinate into the Babylonian culture. Daniel, a teen at that time, remained in Babylon throughout the reigns of Nebuchadnezzar, his son Belshazzar, Darius the Mede, and Cyrus the Persian. Although Daniel was a foreigner, he influenced all four kings and became a person of great authority. Because he never backed down from his convictions, the phrase, “the God of Daniel” echoed in the chambers of those pagan kingdoms.

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**Daniel’s example**

To resist the temptations to compromise our standards, we need to follow Daniel’s godly example to see how:

- **He stood up for his convictions when he was a teenager.** Early in life, Daniel made up his mind to live as a Hebrew and keep the Law of Moses. His first test came when he was given food and wine from the king’s table. Since this food had been offered to idols, he requested a diet of vegetables and water. After 10 days, the king’s official found that Daniel and his friends looked healthier than the other youths.

- **He was convinced that he should be a godly example to others.** Daniel’s determination to live in obedience to the Lord set an example for the other Jewish youths who were living in that heathen society.

- **He knew God would hear and answer his prayers.** Daniel had the boldness to hold firm to his convictions and risk requesting a different diet. Since the Lord is committed to answering the prayers of His children who walk in obedience, we can also have this same conviction.

- **He was committed to being true to the Word of God.** When Nebuchadnezzar had an alarming dream (Dan. 4:19-29), the Lord gave Daniel the horrifying interpretation. At that moment, Daniel had to decide whether he would tell the king the truth or conceal it. Despite the danger, Daniel held to his persuasions and delivered the Lord’s message to the king. He had the courage to stand for what was right even though the king could have eliminated him.
He had a conviction that he was not going to bow down to any other god. At one point Daniel’s three friends who shared his beliefs were put to the test. When Nebuchadnezzar made an image of himself and commanded all the people to bow down to it, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused, even though they faced being thrown into a burning furnace. They believed the Lord could deliver them. They were willing to die rather than bow down to any other god.

He was fully persuaded that God would protect him, no matter what. Daniel could not be bought off or frightened into compromise because he had nothing to fear as long as his convictions were founded on God’s Word.

Daniel’s motivation

Daniel was compelled to stand firm because:

He was taught by his parents. Having grown up in Jerusalem, Daniel learned to obey the Mosaic Law.

He studied the Word of God. Since he knew the Scripture, he could confidently stand on the truth when challenged or questioned.

He loved the Lord. Daniel’s devotion to God and His Word empowered his commitment.

He was committed to obeying God. He didn’t just know the Word and love the Lord; he proved it with his obedience.

The consequences of Daniel’s courageous stand

As we look back at Daniel’s life, we can see the results of his faithfulness in the following ways:

He remained obedient to the Lord. Daniel won his first battle when he refused to defile himself with the king’s food. But that was just the beginning of his lifelong obedience to God.

He influenced his companions to do the same. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego followed Daniel’s example of obedience in refusing to eat the king’s food. They were all blessed by God for their faithfulness to Him.

His obedience opened doors of opportunity

to counsel and influence kings. If Daniel had chosen to blend into the culture, the kings probably wouldn’t have noticed him. But because he was a person of character who stood up for his convictions, the kings heard about the one true God. As believers, we make an impact in others’ lives by boldly living for Christ without compromising our values.

God gave him favor with the kings. Although Daniel was a foreigner who held firmly to his Hebrew beliefs, he was promoted to the highest places of authority by every king he served. Instead of persecuting him for speaking the truth, they raised him up.

God endowed him with one of the most important prophecies in His Word. Because Daniel had remained a trustworthy and obedient servant in the midst of the Babylonian culture, the Lord entrusted him with amazing prophecies about future events.

Your convictions

God is looking for people like Daniel—followers of Christ who will stand by their godly convictions, even in the face of threat or temptation to compromise for profit. Use your God-given convictions to guide your actions.

RESPONSE

In your opinion, what standards in society have become ungodly, immoral, or unsafe?

Why should you take a stand against the corruption you see when others don’t seem to care at all?

How can God use you as a person of character in your areas of influence – whether at work, church, or at home?

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