

WHEN YOU'RE PRESSURED TO CONFORM

Unshakable! Thriving No Matter What They Throw at You
Rick Warren

"Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but the Lord tests the heart."
Proverbs 17:3 (NLT)

BEFORE EVERY BLESSING _____

"We speak the Good News because God tested us and trusted us to do it. When we speak, we are not trying to please people, but God, who tests our hearts."
1 Thessalonians 2:4 (NCV)

GOD _____ WITH STRESS BEFORE HE WITH SUCCESS

"The 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 . . . 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." Daniel 1:5, 8 (NIV)

DEFILE: to pollute, contaminate, or corrupt. A loss of purity.

DANIEL'S FIRST TEST SHOWS . . . 4 QUALITIES GOD LOOKS FOR IN YOUR LIFE

1. _____
"Daniel resolved not to defile himself." Daniel 1:8 (NIV)

"Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God." Romans 12:2 (GNT)
2. _____
"Daniel made up his mind not to eat the food and wine given to them by the king." Daniel 1:8 (TLB)

"Do not let any part of your bodies become tools of wickedness, to be used for sinning; but give yourselves completely to God . . . and you want to be tools in the hands of God, to be used for his good purposes." Romans 6:13 (TLB)
3. _____
"Don't join mobs intent on evil. When on the witness stand, don't be swayed in your testimony by the mood of the majority." Exodus 23:2 (TLB)
"Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong." 1 Corinthians 16:13 (NLT)

4. _____
"He asked the superintendent for permission to eat other things instead. Now as it happened, God had given the superintendent a special appreciation for Daniel and sympathy for his predicament. But he was alarmed by Daniel's suggestion. 'I'm afraid you will become pale and thin compared with the other youths your age,' he said, 'and then the king will behead me for neglecting my responsibilities.' Daniel talked it over with the steward who was appointed by the superintendent to look after Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, and suggested a ten-day diet of only vegetables and water; then, at the end . . . decide whether or not to let them continue their diet. The steward finally agreed to the test. Well, at the end of the ten days, Daniel and his three friends looked healthier and better nourished than the youths who had been eating the food supplied by the king! So after that the steward fed them only vegetables and water, without the rich foods and wines! . . . When the three-year training period was completed, the superintendent brought all the young men to the king for oral exams, as he had been ordered to do. King Nebuchadnezzar had long talks with each of them, and none of them impressed him as much as Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. So they were put on his regular staff of advisors." Daniel 1:8-16, 18-19 (TLB)

HOW TO MAKE A CASE TO AN AUTHORITY

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

WHAT GAVE DANIEL THE COURAGE TO STAND ALONE?

"Don't become partners with those who reject God. How can you make a partnership out of right and wrong? That's not partnership; that's war. Is light best friends with dark? Does Christ go strolling with the Devil? Do trust and mistrust hold hands? Who would think of setting up pagan idols in God's holy Temple? But that is exactly what we are, each of us a temple in whom God lives. God himself put it this way: 'I'll live in them, move into them; I'll be their God and they'll be my people. So leave the corruption and compromise. . . . I'll be a Father to you; you'll be sons and daughters to me.' The Word of the Master, God. With promises like this to pull us on, dear friends, let's make a clean break with everything that defiles or distracts us, both within and without. Let's make our entire lives fit and holy temples for the worship of God."

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1 (MSG)