

WHEN YOUR WORLD IS SHAKEN UP

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

“All the foundations of society are shaken to the core.” Psalm 82:5 (TLB)

INTRODUCTION TO DANIEL'S LIFE & BOOK: DANIEL 1:1-7 WHAT TO DO

1. _____
“Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.” 1 Peter 4:12 (NIV)

Jesus: “I’ve told you all this so that trusting me, you will be unshakable and assured, deeply at peace. In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties. But take heart! I’ve conquered the world.” John 16:33 (MSG)

4 SOURCES: _____

2. _____
God: “The plans I have for you . . . are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and hope.” Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)

- **GOD SHAKES THINGS UP** _____
“He searches all hearts and examines deepest motives so he can give to each person his right reward, according to his deeds—how he has lived.”
Jeremiah 17:10 (TLB)

“God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.” Deuteronomy 8:2 (NIV)

ASK: _____

- **GOD SHAKES THINGS UP** _____
“God corrects all his children, and if he doesn’t correct you, then you don’t really belong to him . . . God corrects us for our own good, because he wants us to be holy, as he is. It is never fun to be corrected. In fact, at the time it is always painful. But if we learn to obey by being corrected, we will do right and live at peace.” Hebrews 12:8-11 (CEV)

“When he spoke from Mount Sinai his voice shook the earth, but, ‘Next time,’ he says, ‘I will not only shake the earth but the heavens too.’ By this he means that he will sift out everything without solid foundations so that only the unshakable things will be left.” Hebrews 12:26-27 (TLB)

“Consider yourself fortunate if God all-powerful chooses to correct you.”
Job 5:17 (CEV)

ASK: _____

- **GOD SHAKES THINGS UP** _____
“A person may plan his own journey, but the Lord directs his steps.”
Proverbs 16:9 (GW)

“Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways.”
Proverbs 20:30 (GNT)

“I have thought about my life, and I have directed my feet back to your written instructions.” Psalm 119:59 (GW)

ASK: _____

- **GOD SHAKES THINGS UP** _____
“God is gently calling you from the jaws of trouble to an open place of freedom.”
Job 36:16 (NCV)

“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good.” Genesis 50:20 (NIV)

ASK: _____

- **GOD SHAKES THINGS UP** _____
“After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who calls you to share his eternal glory in union with Christ, will himself perfect you and give you firmness, strength, and a sure foundation.” 1 Peter 5:10 (GNT)

“We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us—they help us learn to be patient. And patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time we use it.”
Romans 5:3-4 (TLB)

ASK: _____

3. _____
“Since the Lord is directing our steps, why try to understand everything that happens along the way?” Proverbs 20:24 (TLB)

“Trust the Lord with all your heart, and don’t depend on your own understanding. Remember the Lord in all you do, and he will give you success.”
Proverbs 3:5-6 (NCV)

Next Step

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WHEN YOU'RE PRESSURED TO CONFORM

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"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)

WHEN YOUR BELIEFS ARE BELITTLED

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"Do yourself a favor and learn all you can; then remember what you learn and you will prosper." Proverbs 19:8 (GNT)

"Always remember what you have learned. Your education is your life—guard it well."
Proverbs 4:13 (GNT)

"Wisdom brings strength, and knowledge gives power." Proverbs 24:5 (CEV)

DANIEL'S THIRD TEST: CHALLENGES TO HIS FAITH

"King Nebuchadnezzar wanted only young Israelite men . . . They were to be handsome and well educated, capable of learning. . . . Teach them the language and writings of the Babylonians . . . the young men were to be trained for three years, and then they would become servants of the king of Babylon." Daniel 1:4-5 (NCV)

"God gave these four young men wisdom and the ability to learn many things that people had written and studied." Daniel 1:17 (NCV)

"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. And in all matters requiring information and balanced judgment, the king found these young men's advice ten times better than that of all the skilled magicians and wise astrologers in his realm." Daniel 1:18-20 (TLB)

HOW TO EXCEL IN YOUR EDUCATION . . . AND NOT LOSE YOUR FAITH

1. _____
"Daniel made up his mind not to harm himself." Daniel 1:8 (GW)

"Start with God—the first step in learning is bowing down to God; only fools thumb their noses at such wisdom and learning." Proverbs 1:7 (MSG)

"Reverence for the Lord is an education in itself." Proverbs 15:33 (GNT)

"All wisdom comes from the Lord, and so do common sense and understanding. God gives helpful advice to everyone who obeys him and protects those who live as they should." Proverbs 2:6-7 (CEV)

2. _____
"Wise men and women are always learning, always listening for fresh insights."
Proverbs 18:15 (MSG)

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed." 2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)

"Those who get wisdom do themselves a favor, and those who love learning will succeed." Proverbs 19:8 (NCV)

KNOWLEDGE: INFORMATION GAINED FROM EDUCATION OR EXPERIENCE

WISDOM: _____

3. _____
"Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed."
Joshua 1:8 (NLT)

I MUST _____ THE TRUTH IN ORDER TO _____ THE LIES

"Your commandments give me understanding; no wonder I hate every false way of life." Psalm 119:104 (NLT)

"A wise person is hungry for knowledge, while the fool feeds on trash."
Proverbs 15:14 (NLT)

4. _____
"Do not be misled: 'Bad company corrupts good character.'"
1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV)

"Stay away from fools, or you won't learn a thing." Proverbs 14:7 (CEV)

"Fools show their stupidity by the way they live; it's easy to see they have no sense." Ecclesiastes 10:3 (CEV)

"Oh, the joys of those who do not follow evil men's advice, who do not hang around with sinners, scoffing at the things of God." Psalm 1:1-2 (TLB)

5. _____
All 3 are essential for input, output & support
"Not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another." Hebrews 10:25 (NIV)

"It is God's will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you." 1 Peter 2:15 (NLT)

6. _____
Jesus: *"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."* Matthew 5:11-12 (NIV)

WHEN YOU'RE ASKED TO DO THE IMPOSSIBLE

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"Nobody anywhere can do what you ask. . . . What you're asking is impossible."
Daniel 2:10-11 (MSG)

WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT PREDICTING THE FUTURE

1. _____
"No one can tell the future." Ecclesiastes 8:7 (CEV)

2. **ALL PSYCHIC & MEDIUMS** _____
God: "I make fools of fortunetellers and frustrate the predictions of astrologers . . . their 'wisdom' is foolishness." Isaiah 44:25 (GNT)

God: "I will be against anyone who goes to mediums and fortune-tellers for advice, because that person is being unfaithful to me. So I will cut him off."
Leviticus 20:6 (NCV)

3. **THE TEST OF A TRUE PROPHET OF GOD IS** _____
"You may say to yourselves, 'How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the Lord?' If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the Lord does not take place or come true, that is a message the Lord has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously, so do not be alarmed." Deuteronomy 18:21-22 (NIV)

"Check these witches' words against the Word of God!" he says. 'If their messages are different than mine, it is because I have not sent them; for they have no light or truth in them.'" Isaiah 8:20 (TLB)

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU'RE ASKED TO DO THE IMPOSSIBLE

1. _____
"When Arioch, the commander of the king's guard, came to kill them, Daniel handled the situation with wisdom and discretion." Daniel 2:14 (NLT)

2. _____
"He asked Arioch, 'Why has the king issued such a harsh decree?' So Arioch told him all that had happened." Daniel 2:15 (NLT)

3. _____
"Daniel went at once to see the king and requested more time to tell the king what the dream meant." Daniel 2:16 (NLT)

4. _____
"Then Daniel went home and told his friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah what had happened. He urged them to ask the God of heaven to show them his mercy by telling them the secret, so they would not be executed." Daniel 2:17-18 (NLT)

5. _____
God: "Call to me and I will answer you. I'll tell you marvelous and wondrous things that you could never figure out on your own." Jeremiah 33:3 (MSG)

"If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will gladly give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord." James 1:5-7 (NLT)

6. _____
"During the night God explained the secret to Daniel in a vision. Daniel said: 'Praise God forever and ever.'" Daniel 2:19 (NCV)

• _____
"Then he praised the God who rules from heaven: 'Our God, your name will be praised forever and forever. You are all-powerful, and you know everything.'"
Daniel 2:19-20 (CEV)

• _____
"You control human events—you give rulers their power and take it away, and you are the source of wisdom and knowledge. You explain deep mysteries, because even the dark is light to you. You are the God who was worshiped by my ancestors." Daniel 2:21-23 (CEV)

• _____
"I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors, for you have given me wisdom and strength. You have told me what I asked for and revealed to me what the king demanded." Daniel 2:23 (NLT)

7. _____
"Then Daniel went in to see Arioch, whom the king had ordered to execute the wise men of Babylon. Daniel said to him, 'Don't kill the wise men. Take me to the king, and I will tell him the meaning of his dream.'" Daniel 2:24 (NLT)

8. _____
Daniel: "No wise man, magician, or fortune-teller can explain to the king the secret he has asked about. But there is a God in heaven who explains secret things, and he has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen at a later time. . . . God also told this secret to me, not because I have greater wisdom than any other living person, but so that you may know what it means." Daniel 2:27-30 (NCV)

WHEN THE HEAT IS ON

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DANIEL 3: SIMILARITIES TO US TODAY

“King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold.” Daniel 3:1 (NIV)

1. THE WORLD CREATES _____
_____ (Daniel 3:1-7)
2. I’M TEMPTED TO CREATE _____

3. IF I REJECT THE WORLD’S IDOLS, _____
_____ (Daniel 3:8-12)
4. DOING THE RIGHT THING ALWAYS _____
_____ (Daniel 3:13-15)

WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN THE HEAT IS ON?

1. DON’T _____
“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied to him, ‘King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter.’” Daniel 3:16 (NIV)
2. REMEMBER _____
“If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us.” Daniel 3:17 (NLT)
3. _____
“He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty.” Daniel 3:17 (NLT)
“When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. For I am the Lord, your God.” Isaiah 43:2-3 (NLT)
4. _____
“But even if he doesn’t . . . we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up.” Daniel 3:18 (NLT)

Faith in the furnace: Daniel 3:19-23 WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I TRUST GOD IN THE FURNACE?

1. GOD _____
“But suddenly, Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in amazement and exclaimed to his advisers, ‘Didn’t we tie up three men and throw them into the furnace?’ ‘Yes, Your Majesty, we certainly did,’ they replied. ‘Look!’ Nebuchadnezzar shouted. ‘I see four men, unbound, walking around in the fire unharmed! And the fourth looks like a god!’” Daniel 3:24-25 (NLT)
2. GOD _____
“I have refined you, but not in the way silver is refined. Rather, I have refined you in the furnace of suffering.” Isaiah 48:10 (NLT)
3. GOD _____
“You let captors set foot on our neck; we went through fire and water; then you led us out to freedom.” Psalm 66:12 (NABRE)
4. GOD MAKES SURE _____
“Then Nebuchadnezzar came as close as he could to the open door of the flaming furnace and yelled: ‘Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God! Come out! Come here!’ So they stepped out of the fire. Then the princes, governors, captains, and counselors crowded around them and saw that the fire hadn’t touched them—not a hair of their heads was singed; their coats were unscorched, and they didn’t even smell of smoke!” Daniel 3:26-27 (TLB)
5. _____
“The king said, ‘Praise the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He sent his angel and rescued these men who serve and trust him. They disobeyed my orders and risked their lives rather than bow down and worship any god except their own.’” Daniel 3:28 (GNT)
““Therefore, I make this decree: If any people, whatever their race or nation or language, speak a word against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, they will be torn limb from limb, and their houses will be turned into heaps of rubble. There is no other god who can rescue like this! Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to even higher positions in the province of Babylon.”
Daniel 3:29-30 (NLT)
6. GOD WILL _____
“Each of you must be careful how you build. For God has already placed Jesus Christ as the one and only foundation, and no other foundation can be laid. . . . The fire will test it . . . If what was built on the foundation survives the fire, the builder will receive a reward. But if your work is burnt up, then you will lose it; but you yourself will be saved, as if you had escaped through the fire.”

1 Corinthians 3:10-15 (GNT)

WHEN GOD TESTS YOU WITH SUCCESS

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DANIEL 4:1-37 WHAT GETS US INTO TROUBLE

1. _____
"I was enjoying a time of peace and prosperity." Daniel 4:4 (CEV)

"I was saying to myself, 'Just look at this wonderful capital city that I have built by my own power and for my own glory!'" Daniel 4:30 (CEV)

"The Lord detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished." Proverbs 16:5 (NIV)
2. _____
Daniel 4:24-25

"Accept my advice. Stop sinning and do what is right. Break from your wicked past and be merciful to the poor. Perhaps then you will continue to prosper."
Daniel 4:27 (NLT)
3. _____
"All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, he said, 'Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?' Even as the words were on his lips, a voice came from heaven, 'This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you. You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes.' Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled." Daniel 4:28-33 (NIV)

STEPS TO RECOVERY

1. _____
"After this time had passed, I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven. My sanity returned." Daniel 4:34 (NLT)
2. _____
"My sanity returned, and I praised and worshiped the Most High and honored the one who lives forever." Daniel 4:34 (NLT)

WE GET BETTER WHEN WE REPLACE _____ WITH _____

"Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years. . . . To humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. He humbled you, causing you to hunger. . . . The Lord your God is bringing you into a good land—a land with brooks, streams, and deep springs. . . . a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey . . . a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills. . . . When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. . . . You may say to yourself, 'My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth. . . . If you ever forget the Lord your God and follow other gods and worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed. Like the nations the Lord destroyed before you." Deuteronomy 8:2-20 (NIV)

TRUTHS ABOUT GOD THAT STABILIZE MY LIFE

- _____
"His rule is everlasting, and his kingdom is eternal." Daniel 4:34 (NLT)
 - _____
"All the people of the earth are nothing compared to him." Daniel 4:35 (NLT)
 - _____
"He does as he pleases among the angels of heaven and among the people of the earth. No one can stop him or say to him, 'What do you mean by doing these things?' . . . and he is able to humble the proud." Daniel 4:35, 37 (NLT)

"When my sanity returned to me, so did my honor and glory and kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored as head of my kingdom, with even greater honor than before." Daniel 4:36 (NLT)
 - _____
3. _____
"King Nebuchadnezzar sent this message to the people of every race and nation and language throughout the world: 'Peace and prosperity to you! I want you all to know about the miraculous signs and wonders the Most High God has performed for me.'" Daniel 4:1-2 (NLT)

ARE YOU LEARNING FROM THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE YOU?

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DANIEL'S REPUTATION

The Queen: "This man Daniel . . . has exceptional ability and is filled with divine knowledge and understanding. He can interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve difficult problems. Call for Daniel, and he will tell you what the writing means."

Daniel 5:12. (NLT)

The King: "I have heard that the spirit of the holy gods is in you and that you are skillful and have knowledge and wisdom." Daniel 5:14 (GNT)

"Always remember what you have learned. Your education is your life—guard it well." Proverbs 4:13 (GNT)

HOW CAN I BECOME WISE LIKE DANIEL?

1. _____
"Commit yourself to instruction; listen carefully to words of knowledge." Proverbs 23:12 (NLT)

"If the ax is dull and its edge is unsharpened, more strength is needed, but skill will bring success." Ecclesiastes 10:10 (NIV)

"Do yourself a favor and learn all you can; then remember what you learn and you will prosper." Proverbs 19:8 (GNT)

2. _____
"Ask the former generation and find out what their ancestors learned, for we were born only yesterday and know nothing." Job 8:8-9 (NLT)

"Now, all of this is an example for us, to warn us not to desire evil things, as they did, nor to worship idols, as some of them did. As the scripture says, 'The people sat down to a feast which turned into an orgy of drinking and sex.' . . . We must not put the Lord to the test . . . We must not complain, as some of them did—and they were destroyed by the Angel of Death. . . . All these things happened to them as examples for others, and they were written down as a warning for us."

1 Corinthians 10:6-11 (GNT)

3. _____
"Reverence for the Lord is an education in itself. You must be humble before you can ever receive honors." Proverbs 15:33 (GNT)

"God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." James 4:6 (NIV)

4. _____
"A wise person is hungry for knowledge, while the fool feeds on trash." Proverbs 15:14 (NLT)

5. _____
King Belshazzar lost everything because he failed to do this.

Daniel: "King Belshazzar, you knew all of this, but you still refused to honor the Lord who rules from heaven." Daniel 5:22 (CEV)

KING BELSHAZZAR MADE 3 FATAL MISTAKES

THE LESSON: IF I DON'T HUMBLY LEARN FROM GENERATIONS BEFORE ME, I WILL END UP _____

"Some of these people have missed the most important thing in life—they don't know God." 1 Timothy 6:21 (TLB)

Next Steps

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WILL YOU STAND STRONG FOR GOD PUBLICLY?

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DANIEL'S 8th TEST: DANIEL 6:1-28 WHY DID DANIEL KEEP GETTING PROMOTED AT WORK?

1. HIS _____ MADE HIM STAND OUT
"Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom." Daniel 6:3 (NIV)
2. HIS _____ MADE HIM STAND OUT
"The administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent." Daniel 6:4 (NIV)
3. HIS _____ MADE HIM STAND OUT
"These men said, 'We won't find anything to accuse this man, Daniel, unless we find it in his religious practices.'" Daniel 6:5 (GW)

A CONSPIRACY TO TRAP DANIEL (vs.6-9) HOW DID DANIEL RESPOND TO THIS NEW TEST?

"But though Daniel knew about it, he went home and kneled down as usual in his upstairs bedroom, with its windows open toward Jerusalem, and prayed three times a day, just as he always had, giving thanks to his God. Then the men thronged to Daniel's house and found him praying there, asking favors of his God."
Daniel 6:10-11 (TLB)

WHY WAS DANIEL UNAFRAID TO STAND OUT AND SPEAK UP FOR GOD AT WORK?

1. HE REMEMBERED _____
2. HE HAD _____
3. HE KNEW _____

6 WAYS I BENEFIT EVERY TIME I STAND FOR GOD

1. STANDING FOR GOD IS _____
 - FEAR IS JUST A FEELING & IT CANNOT _____
 - FEAR IS UNCOMFORTABLE, BUT IT WON'T _____
 - FEAR GROWS WHEN I GIVE INTO IT, BUT LESSENS WHEN I MOVE _____
Pray like the first Christians: "Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness." Acts 4:29 (NIV)
2. STANDING FOR GOD _____
"Never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord or be ashamed of me, his prisoner. Instead, by God's power, join me in suffering for the sake of the Good News." 2 Timothy 1:8 (GW)
3. IT GIVES GOD AN _____
"At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, 'Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?' Daniel answered, 'May the king live forever! 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.' The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God." Daniel 6:19-23 (NIV)
4. IT ENCOURAGES _____
Paul: "Because of my imprisonment, most of the believers here have gained confidence and boldly speak God's message without fear." Philippians 1:14 (NLT)
5. IT'S A POWERFUL _____
"The council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus." Acts 4:13 (NLT)
 - The King becomes a believer! Daniel 6:25-28
"He rescues and saves." Daniel 6:27 (NLT)
 - Then 18 generations later! Matthew 2:1-2
6. I WILL _____
Jesus: "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." Matthew 5:11-12 (NIV)

THE KIND OF PRAYER GOD ANSWERS

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

DANIEL 9:1-23: HOW TO PRAY IN A CRISIS

1.

READ YOUR BIBLE FIRST

"It was the first year of the reign of Darius the Mede, the son of Ahasuerus, who became king of the Babylonians. During the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, learned from reading the word of the Lord, as revealed to Jeremiah the prophet, that Jerusalem must lie desolate for seventy years." Daniel 9:1-2 (NLT)

"After Babylonia has been the strongest nation for 70 years, I will be kind and bring you back to Jerusalem, just as I have promised. I will bless you with a future filled with hope—a future of success, not of suffering. You will turn back to me and ask for help, and I will answer your prayers." Jeremiah 29:10-12 (CEV)

2 FACTORS: _____ & _____

2.

"I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him." Daniel 9:3 (ESV)

"I gave my attention to the Lord God, to seek Him by prayer." Daniel 9:3 (NASB)

3.

"And I prayed earnestly to the Lord God, pleading with him, fasting." Daniel 9:3 (GNT)

"I poured out my heart, baring my soul to God, my God." Daniel 9:3 (MSG)

"Then the people of Israel and Judah shall join together, weeping and seeking the Lord their God. They shall ask the way to Zion and start back home again." Jeremiah 50:4-5 (TLB)

4.

"I fasted, put on rough cloth, and sat in ashes." Daniel 9:3 (NCV)

WHY FAST?

5.

"O Lord," I prayed, 'you are a great and awesome God; you always fulfill your promises of mercy to those who love you and keep your laws.'" Daniel 9:4 (TLB)

"Lord God, you are merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against you." Daniel 9:9 (CEV)

6.

"We have sinned and done wrong. We have brought guilt on ourselves and rebelled, ignoring your commands and your laws. We haven't listened to your servants, the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our leaders, our parents, and to all the land's people." Daniel 9:5-6 (CEB)

"We have always brought disgrace on ourselves. . . . because they were unfaithful to you. Our kings, our rulers, and our ancestors." Daniel 9:7-8 (GNT)

"We paid no attention to you when you told us how to live, the clear teaching that came through your servants the prophets." Daniel 9:10 (MSG)

"We kept at our sinning, never giving you a second thought, oblivious to your clear warning, and so you had no choice but to let the disaster loose on . . . since we persistently and defiantly ignored you." Daniel 9:13-14 (MSG)

"All the neighboring nations mock Jerusalem." Daniel 9:16 (NLT)

"O my God, lean down and listen to me. . . . We make this plea, not because we deserve help, but because of your mercy." Daniel 9:18 (NLT)

GOD'S RESPONSE TO DANIEL

"Even while I was praying and confessing my sin and the sins of my people, desperately pleading with the Lord . . . Gabriel, whom I had seen in the earlier vision, flew swiftly to me at the time of the evening sacrifice and said to me, 'Daniel, I am here to help you understand God's plans. The moment you began praying a command was given. I am here to tell you what it was, for God loves you very much.'" Daniel 9:20-23 (TLB)

GOD'S PROMISE TO HIS PEOPLE

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)

Next Step

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