

A blacksmith is forging a piece of metal in a furnace. The furnace is filled with bright orange and yellow flames. Sparks are flying out of the furnace, creating a shower of light. The background is dark and industrial, with various metal parts and tools visible.

Character

forged in fire

Character Trait

Resolve (Nehemiah)



Character Trait

Loyalty (Ruth)



Character Trait

Integrity



Integrity

Integrity: the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles that you refuse to change.
(*Cambridge Dictionary*)



Developing Integrity Like Daniel



Integrity: Checks Motives

Daniel 1:8

But Daniel resolved that **he would not defile himself** with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself. ESV

Daniel 2:27–28

Daniel answered the king and said, “**No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can** show to the king the mystery that the king has asked, ²⁸ **but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries,** and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these:

ESV

Integrity: Checks Motives

Daniel 5:16–17

But I have heard that you can give interpretations and solve problems. Now if you can read the writing and make known to me its interpretation, you shall be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around your neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.”

¹⁷ Then Daniel answered and said before the king, “**Let your gifts be for yourself, and give your rewards to another.** Nevertheless, I will read the writing to the king and make known to him the interpretation. ESV

Integrity: Produces Consistency

Daniel 2:22

he reveals deep and hidden things; **he knows what is in the darkness**, and the light dwells with him. ESV

Daniel 6:3–5

Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. ⁴ Then the high officials and the satraps **sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel** with regard to the kingdom, but **they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful**, and no error or fault was found in him. ⁵ Then these men said, “We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God.” ESV

Integrity: Produces Consistency

Daniel 6:10–11

When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, **as he had done previously.** ¹¹ Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God.
ESV

Daniel 6:19–22

Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions. ²⁰ As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, “O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?” ²¹ Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever! ²² **My God sent his angel and shut the lions’ mouths**, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm.”
ESV

Integrity: Leaves a Legacy

Daniel 10:11

And he said to me, “O Daniel, **man greatly loved (highly esteemed)**, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you.” And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. ESV



Integrity

Motives ~ Consistency ~ Legacy

Do the people in your life experience God through your integrity?

Matthew 5:16

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” ESV