

# Unshakeable Unbreakable: How To Thrive In Our World When You're Pressured To Conform

9-23-18

*Proverbs 17:3* 3- The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but the Lord tests the heart.

Before every blessing there is always a \_\_\_\_\_.

*1 Thessalonians 2:4* - On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be **entrusted** with the gospel. We are not trying to please men **but God, who tests our hearts.**

God \_\_\_\_\_ us with stress before he  
\_\_\_\_\_ us with success.

*Daniel 1:7*- The chief official gave them new names: **to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar;** to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

*Daniel 1:5, 8*- **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. . . .<sup>8</sup> 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.

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

Daniel's first test shows . . .

#### 4 Qualities God Looks For In Our Lives

1. \_\_\_\_\_-He never forgot who he was.

*Daniel 1:8a* - "Daniel resolved **not to defile himself** . . ."

*Romans 12:2* - "Don't **conform** yourself to the values of this world. Instead, let God **transform** you by a complete change of how you think. Then you will be **able to know** the will of God . . ." (TEV)

- You will be conformed or you'll be transformed.

2. \_\_\_\_\_-He controlled his ego and his appetite.

*Daniel 1:8* - 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.

*Romans 6:13* - **Do not offer the parts of your body to sin**, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

3. \_\_\_\_\_-He was willing to stand alone.

*Exodus 23:2* - Never follow the crowd in doing wrong, and don't be swayed in your testimony by the mood of the majority. (GW/LB)

4. \_\_\_\_\_-He was tactful with authority.

Daniel 1:8-19 - 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.** <sup>9</sup> Now God had caused the official to **show favor and sympathy to Daniel,** <sup>10</sup> but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you." <sup>11</sup> **Daniel then said to the guard** whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, <sup>12</sup> "Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. <sup>13</sup> Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see." <sup>14</sup> So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days. <sup>15</sup> At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. <sup>16</sup> So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead. <sup>17</sup> To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds. <sup>18</sup> At the end of the time set by the king to bring them in, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. <sup>19</sup> The king talked with them, and **he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service.**

## How To Make A Case To An Authority

1. Develop a reputation for responsibility.
2. Be humble, not belligerent.
3. Don't be deceptive or manipulative.
4. Appeal to their goals and their interests.
5. Trust God if they reject your appeal.

What gave Daniel the courage to stand alone and not conform to the values of the society? Daniel lived in close **relationship with God.** Daniel walked with God. He knew God as his friend. He had God's presence in his life. He had **God's promises in his heart.** He had God's **power in his spirit.** He had **God's people around him.**