

UNSHAKEABLE

AGAINST ALL ODDS

Pressured to Conform

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

Before every _____ here's always a testing.

"We speak God's message 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

God _____ us with stress before he _____ us 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 by eating the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way." -Daniel 1:5,8

Defile: To pollute, contaminate, or corrupt. A loss of purity.

Daniel's First Test Shows Four Qualities

1. _____ He never forgot who he was.

"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

2. _____ He controlled his ego and his appetite.

"Daniel made up his mind not to eat the food and wine given to them by the king." -Daniel 1:8a (LB)

"Do not let any part of your body become a tool of wickedness used for sinning; instead give yourself completely to God...because you want to be a tool in the hands of God used for his good purposes." -Romans 6:13

3. _____ He was willing to stand alone.

"Do not follow the majority when they do wrong or when they give testimony that perverts justice." -Exodus 23:2

"Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong!" -1 Corinthians 16:13

⁸“Then Daniel asked the chief official for permission to eat other things instead. ⁹ Now God had given the chief official great respect for Daniel. ¹⁰ But he said, ‘I’m afraid of my lord, the king, who ordered that you eat his food and wine, And if you aren’t as healthy as the others, I fear the king will have me beheaded!’ ¹¹ So next, Daniel talked it over with the guard appointed to look after Daniel and his three friends. Daniel offered a suggestion: ¹² ‘Just test us for ten days on a diet of vegetables and water. ¹³ Then see how healthy we look compared to the young men eating the king’s food. Then you can decide whether or not to let us continue eating our diet.’ ¹⁴ So the attendant agreed to try Daniel’s suggestion. ¹⁵ At the end of the ten days, Daniel and his friends looked healthier and better nourished than any of others in the king’s training program. ¹⁶ So after that, the guard let them eat their own food ... ¹⁸ When the 3-year training program was completed, all the young men were brought to King Nebuchadnezzar, ¹⁹ who talked with each one individually. None impressed the king as much as Daniel and his three friends. So they were each promoted to positions in the king’s service.” -Daniel 1:8b-16, 18-19

How to Make a Case to an Authority

- 1. Develop a reputation for being responsible.**
- 2. Be humble, not belligerent.**
- 3. Don’t be deceptive or manipulative.**
- 4. Appeal to their goals and interests.**
- 5. Choose the right place, time and words.**
- 6. Trust God if they reject your appeal.**

What gave Daniel the courage to stand alone?

¹⁴ “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? ¹⁵ Does Christ go strolling with the Devil? Do trust and mistrust hold hands? ¹⁶ 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 and move into them; I’ll be their God and they’ll be my people. ¹⁷ So leave the corruption and compromise . . . ¹⁸ I’ll be a Father to you and you will be my sons and daughters!’ ... ¹ With promises like this, 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 6:14-18, 7:1 (MSG)