

#7 PROTECT YOUR SOUL

Daniel 5:8-16 (NLT) But when all the king's wise men had come in, none of them could read the writing or tell him what it meant. So the king grew even more alarmed, and his face turned pale. His nobles, too, were shaken. But when the queen mother heard what was happening, she hurried to the banquet hall. She said to Belshazzar, "Long live the king! Don't be so pale and frightened. There is a man in your kingdom who has within him the spirit of the holy gods. During Nebuchadnezzar's reign, this man was found to have insight, understanding, and wisdom like that of the gods. Your predecessor, the king—your predecessor King Nebuchadnezzar—made him chief over all the magicians, enchanters, astrologers, and fortune-tellers of Babylon. This man Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar, 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." So Daniel was brought in before the king. The king asked him, "Are you Daniel, one of the exiles brought from Judah by my predecessor, King Nebuchadnezzar? I have heard that you have the spirit of the gods within you and that you are filled with insight, understanding, and wisdom. My wise men and enchanters have tried to read the words on the wall and tell me their meaning, but they cannot do it. I am told that you can give interpretations and solve difficult problems. If you can read these words and tell me their meaning, you will be clothed in purple robes of royal honor, and you will have a gold chain placed around your neck. You will become the third highest ruler in the kingdom."

1. THE WORLD OFFERS _____ _____ AND _____ _____.

Daniel 5:16 (NLT) "I am told that you can give interpretations and solve difficult problems. If you can read these words and tell me their meaning, you will be clothed in purple robes of royal honor, and you will have a gold chain placed around your neck. You will become the third highest ruler in the kingdom."

Hebrews 11:24-26 (NLT) It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to share the oppression of God's people instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin. He thought it was better to suffer for the sake of Christ than to own the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to his great reward.

2. WRONG PURSUITS AFFECT THE _____ OF OUR _____.

2 Corinthians 9:8 (NLT) And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.

Psalms 37:4 (NLT) Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you your heart's desires.

Daniel 5:17 (NLT) Daniel answered the king, "Keep your gifts or give them to someone else, but I will tell you what the writing means."

3. YOUR SOUL IS _____ TO GOD – _____ IT.

You are responsible for what happens in and to your soul.

- You are responsible for what you _____ your soul to.
- You can compromise your soul through _____.
- You can compromise your soul through wrong _____ and _____.

- You can compromise your soul through _____.

- You can compromise your soul by pursuing _____ _____ the wrong _____, for the wrong _____.

Mark 8:36-37 (TLB) "And how does a man benefit if he gains the whole world and loses his soul in the process? For is anything worth more than his soul?"

3 John 1:2 (NKJV) Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

You will never stand strong under pressure unless you:

- _____ your soul.

- _____ your soul.

- _____ your soul.

Proverbs 4:23 (NIV) Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.