

**Title: Purpose**

**Text:** (Dan 1:1-8)

1979 Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan-

The Soviet invasion had a devastating effect on the Afghan people.

Because the rural population fed and housed the Mujahidin, the Soviets tried to eliminate or remove civilian populations from the countryside where resistance was based.

Soviet bombing destroyed entire villages, crops and irrigation, leaving millions of people dead, homeless or starving.

Land mines maimed unsuspecting Afghans, especially children who mistook them to be toys.

607 BC Nebuchadnezzar invaded Judah, Took gold, Slaves

**Purposeful Heart:** (Dan 1:8) *But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.*

(Vs 7) King wanted to change him, everything about him.

Belteshazzar, His name meant worshipper of Baal. *He wanted him to blend in, act, talk, look like a Babylonian.*

Satan wants us to blend in also.

Satan wants our looks, habits, likes, dislikes to mimic the world.

Satan has his own heroes that he uses to shape the trends in our society.

*Illus: Did you know that* Not all sports celebrities are adulterous, drug addicted, Obnoxious, foul mouthed reprobates, yet that's all we hear about.

**Daniel's Convictions were in his heart:**

God was Real to Daniel!

We need God to be Real to us.

**Daniel Knew God Personally:**

He knew who he belonged to: 1 Cor 6:19-20 *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

He knew his position in the world: Gal 2:20

He knew what his rights were: Do right. Rom 12:1-2

**We need to know God Personally.**

**Daniel applied God's Word Personally:**

Is was a part of who he was! Inseparable!

(Prov 23:7) *For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:*

(Ps 119:9,11,16) Firm convictions fixed in His heart!

We can know and quote biblical truth, but we must make them personal.

He knew God was talking to him literally. Jn 15:10  
(1 Pet 1:15-16, 2 Cor 6:14-17) *Any old way won't do!*  
(Ps 39:1)

**When you read your bible, I hope you underline or highlight the verses God Bring to your mind.**

*Pray, ask God to speak to you.*

*Pay attention to the verses.*

*Ask God how they apply to you.*

**We need to apply God's Word to our lives is a personal way!**

**“We mark our bibles, but do our bibles mark us?”**

They were his convictions, they were personal, they were unshakable.

**Daniels Convictions were expressed:** (Dan 1:8)

(Matt 12:34b ) *for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.*

What is in our hearts are going to come out our hands, our feet, and our mouths.

*Our walk talks louder than our Talk talks.*

**Daniel couldn't keep quiet about it!**

**Convictions that are not expressed in our lives are not real.**

America's moral decay is due to Christians who have the truth in their hearts but never express it vocally or live it out physically for others to see.

*“All that is necessary for Evil to prevail, is for good men to do nothing!”*

***We are the Only Bible some people will ever read.***

**We need to Purpose in our hearts...**

Married, to stay faithful to our spouse & build our marriage

Single, stay pure to God & wait on God for our life mate.

To Live biblically without compromise.

To Grow in our relationship with God.

To Stay faithful to read, pray, attend Church, Witness, Tithe.

**God ceases to be real when we go back on our convictions**

**We need a Purposeful Heart**

**We need A Proving Heart:** Daniel put his convictions to the test.

*(Dan 1:9-10) Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs. And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king.*

**Daniel had earned respect by his behavior.**

He made a proposal Dan 1:11-15  
God honored Daniels heart.

10 days later, they were all Healthier.

These same men are the ones that stood in the fiery furnace!!!!

**You will never know what affect your testimony will have on other people!**

When struggles come, do we quit our career? **No!**

**What about our walk with God?**

Do we quit praying when we get sick?

Do we quit attending church when we lose job?

Do we quit reading our bible when we change shifts?

Do we quit tithing because our taxes increase, or the economy tanks?

**NO! This is when God Proves Himself to us.**

**God is aware of how faithful we can be, but we have to experience it for ourselves.**

*(1 Cor 10:13) There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be TEMPTED above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*

We read our bible, and God moves us to grow to a higher level, but we get afraid of what others think, or of what we might have to give up.

What will they think at the office?

What will this do to my career?

*Illus: A misguided soldier once told me to advance in the Army, there is an unwritten social code we have to abide by.*

**God Proves Himself to us**

**We, in turn, Prove God is real to the World by living our convictions.**

**We need a Purposeful Heart, a Proving heart and We need A Persevering Heart:**

Daniel wanted to be right with God on a permanent basis.

We serve him and things don't go like we think they should so we automatically assume He is not watching.

Daniel Prays in chapter 9. Confesses the sin of his people.

He begs for god's restoration and deliverance. The answer doesn't come immediately.

*(Dan 10:12) Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words.*

This takes place 33 years later!

God heard his 1st prayer, his last prayer, and everyone in between.

**Sowing and Reaping**

**We Reap What we sow, More than we sowed, Later than we sowed.**

We always think of this bible teaching from the negative side.

We love condemning those is in sin with the attitude of, *"One day you're going to get what's coming to you."*

*Illus: the little boy who was nervous about the plight of the books main character, jumps to the back and reads the end, and then goes back reads the book and Says "boy are you going to get it!"*

**Think of the positive side od Sowing & Reaping:**  
this works for growing good stuff too!

*(Gal 6:7-9) Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*

Verse 9 is the Key! *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*

Don't Quit! **We have to Persevere**

On 2 occasions Daniel asked God to reveal when the end of captivity would be.

(Dan 12:13) *But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.*

God told Daniel that He wouldn't live to see it, but he stayed faithful...

Because God is worthy of it.

Because God deserves it.

Because Jesus' Sacrifice cost us nothing!

Because Heaven is worth it!

Because His Grace is all we need.

You may not get everything you wanted, relief from pain, or see your grand children grow, but stay faithful.

(Rev 2:10) *Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*

(Rev 2:26-28) *And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. And I will give him the morning star.*

Stay Faithful to the end.

*WWII Gen. Wainright-Corregidor – My General is Coming for Me . Tit 2:13 our Gen is coming.*

**We Need to Purpose to live our Convictions**  
**We Need to Prove God is real to the world**  
**We need to Persevere, no matter what we face.**