

HAVE AN ATTITUDE LIKE DANIEL

Daniel 1:8

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Every once in a while a young person thinks beyond his/her normal process for his/her age. They think and act so mature, far more so than how others their same age are acting and thinking. Daniel was one of those exceptional young men who just wasn't like the average person his age. Daniel was not only young, but he was a captive, having been stolen away from his family and carried into a foreign land. His name was changed to one that would be common around the Babylon people but they could not change Daniel's nature for he just wouldn't do anything contrary to what he had been brought up to believe. Daniel set an example of having the right attitude when tempted, even ordered to do something contrary to his beliefs.

I. THERE ARE TEMPTATIONS THAT NEED TO BE RESISTED

1. Whenever there is faith in God (the Lord Jesus Christ), it will be tested at some time or other.
2. Daniel was tempted.
 - He was told to eat food from the king's table.
 - He was going to be treated like a prince, yet he refused to eat the king's food.
 - The Babylonians ate certain food that was forbidden according to God's law.
 - The Babylonians prepared their food in ways forbidden by God's law.
 - They also offered their food to idols, contrary to God's law (of the Old Testament).
 - Daniel refused to eat food from the king's table.
 - Eating from the king's table would give him advantages he would likely never have had.
 - To be recognized by the king was a thing of honor, especially for a "slave."
 - It was a law to do whatever the king wanted.
 - Daniel resisted the opportunity to be recognized and have more freedom.
 - *"...We ought to obey God rather than man..."*
 - Eating from the king's table would have separated him from his own people, whom God had chosen.
 - This temptation is very strong today among those who "profess" to be Christians.
 - "Profess" to be, yet mixed among the world, taking the name "Christian" to church and ceremonies, but do not bring their religion into their work.
 - Thus separating themselves from their faith.
3. What temptations do Christians face today?
 - Being asked to do or say something that is just not right for that Christian to do or say.
 - To keep one's job, to gain a promotion, to be recognized, to be more popular, etc.
 - Being asked to go doubtful, questionable places where evil is prevalent.
 - By bringing worldly things into the House of God.
 - By replacing Biblical truths with non-biblical ideas, thoughts, etc, for whatever reason.
 - Don't want to "hurt" anybody's feelings, so this or that is allowed, even started which is non-biblical.
 - By doing what Christians should not do and excuse themselves by quoting the example of other "Christians" or by wanting to get rid of the "old fashioned" things.
 - Christians need to remember that they have "food" which the world does not know anything about.
 - Christians have the Word of God, the Lord Jesus Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

II. THERE ARE RIGHT WAYS TO RESIST TEMPTATION

1. One's heart must be settled, set, fixed, mind made up.
 - ***"...Daniel purposed in his heart..."***
 - One must be firm, positive, unyielding for the ways of the Lord.
2. One must be totally willing to be faithful to the Lord God.
 - Daniel had made up his mind to remain faithful to the laws of God, no matter what.
 - Yield everything that may be yielded except the things of God.
 - Daniel was admired in a way for his refusal to give up his beliefs.
3. One must be determined to deny him/her self things contrary to his/her beliefs.
 - Daniel said, ***"...to make it clear that nothing that enters my lips has ever been dedicated to idols, let me have nothing to eat but pulse, lentils, beans, peas and such like things; and for drink, let me have that of which kinds do not often take much, let me have nothing but water, in order to make sure that I have no libation that has been offered to idols..."***
 - If one is to be sold out to the Lord, then there must be permanent self-denial.
 - Be ready to be called names, to lose friends, and whatever else Satan and the world will bring against you.
4. Temptations can be used as tests by the Christian.
 - Daniel told them to test him and his three companions as long as the officials wanted and then see who was healthier, etc. at the end of the trial period.
 - Christians should be willing to be tried, tested, even pleased that his/her faith is being put to the test.
 - Christians don't go to heaven on a feather bed!
 - May YOU be willing to have your faith put to every test.

III. SOME THINGS HAVE TO BE PROVEN BY EXPERIENCE

1. Christians have to prove that their "old" faith gives them a bright and cheerful outlook, spirit.
 - Christians should be happier than anybody else for they have so much more in them as well as to look forward to.
 - They have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
 - They have the constant love of God.
 - They have the Lord Jesus interceding for them.
 - They have a home in heaven waiting for them.
2. Christians have to prove that their "old" faith promotes, enables, encourages holiness of life.
 - It is one thing to "talk" about good works and another to seem good works being done.
 - "Old" faith enables one to live a holy life, be gracious in conversation and truthful in all things.
 - Christians have far better "food" from the Lord's table than from that of the world.
3. Christians have to prove that the "old" faith produces a lot of love for their fellow-men/people.
 - It is one thing to "talk" about God and faith, and another to do something for others and that is just what Christians have to show, not just talk, but action.
 - Those who do not believe in the Lord Jesus are watching those who say that they do and are seeing if it is all talk or is there really something that causes Christians to really care for others.
 - Christians must take what they know is true, their faith, and share it with others.
4. Christians have to prove that the "old" faith enables them to have great patience in difficult times.
 - Who will die the best? Will it be the person trusting in him/her own accomplishments, philosophy, worldly interests? Or will it be the person who relies on the Word of God, the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ?

CONCLUSION:

1. Daniel not only showed that he was true, faithful, dependent upon his faith in God by refusing to be tempted to stray, to yield to things against God's law, but he eventually proved that by resisting the temptations that came to him he came out stronger than ever before.
2. Christians can follow Daniel's example when they are tempted in so many ways to stray, to vary, to go away from their faith and the teachings of God's Word.
3. Every Christian will be tempted to some degree, at some time or other. Sadly some fail and yield to their temptations, maybe not all of them, but some of them.
4. Christians have to prove their faith every day.
5. Christians must remember that the faith they hold is far better than anything that Satan and the world can offer them.
6. Christians have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, the intercession of the Lord Jesus Christ and other Christians to help them through times of trials and temptations.