

I. DANIEL MAKES A DECISION...

1. He "purposed in his heart" - **Dan 1:8**
 - a. i.e., he made a commitment
 - b. Something too rarely heard of today, in both young and old
2. His commitment was to "not defile himself" with the king's food
 - a. Possibly unclean food according to Levitical restrictions
 - b. Or food used in idol worship which would cause one to be a participant with such worship

- cf. **1Co 10:20-22**

II. HOW DANIEL REMAINED TRUE TO HIS COMMITMENT...

1. He did it **with politeness** - **Dan 1:8b**
 - a. Note that "he requested"
 - b. He did not "demand", but respected the authority of those over him
2. He did it **with God's help** - **Dan 1:9**
 - a. God gave him favor in the eyes of the chief of eunuchs, Ashpenaz,
 - b. Similar to how Joseph found favor in prison - cf. **Gen 39:21**
3. He did it **through persistence** - **Dan 1:10-11**
 - a. He did not give up after the refusal by the chief of the eunuchs
 - b. He tried something else, going to the steward directly over them
4. He did it **through willingness to test his faith** - **Dan 1:12-15**
 - a. He was confident that God's way was the right way
 - b. He was willing to demonstrate the superiority of God's way
 - c. So he asked the steward to give him and his three friends just water and vegetables for ten days

III. THE VALUE OF SUCH FAITH SEEN IN ITS RESULTS...

1. It affected the lives of others! - **Dan 1:15-16**
 - a. It had blessed the countenance of Daniel and his friends
 - b. It then blessed the rest of the young men under the care of the steward
2. God blessed Daniel and his three friends even more! - **Dan 1:17-20**
 - a. God gave them knowledge, skill, and wisdom, and to Daniel He gave understanding in visions and dreams
 - b. They became the best of the young men who had been trained, and served in the presence of Nebuchadnezzar
 - c. The king found them better than all his magicians and astrologers
3. Daniel continued in the court of Babylon nearly seventy years! **Dan 1:21**
 - a. Even to the first year of Cyrus of Persia (539 B.C.)
 - b. Eventually becoming provincial ruler and chief administrator over all others - **Dan 2:48**

[What a wonderful example of faith and commitment and of God's providence to care for His people!]