

DANIEL A MAN OF CONVICTION
Will You Be Like Daniel?
6-26-22

Daniel 6:1 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom;

Daniel 6:2 And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel [was] first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.

Daniel 6:3 Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit [was] in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

Daniel 6:4 Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he [was] faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

Daniel 6:5 Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find [it] against him concerning the law of his God.

Daniel 6:6 Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever.

Daniel 6:7 All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

Daniel 6:8 Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

Daniel 6:9 Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree.

Daniel 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

Daniel 6:11 Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

Daniel 6:12 Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask [a petition] of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing [is] true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

Daniel 6:13 Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which [is] of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.

Daniel 6:14 Then the king, when he heard [these] words, was sore displeased with himself, and set [his] heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

Daniel 6:15 Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians [is], That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.

Daniel 6:16 Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast [him] into the den of lions. [Now] the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

Daniel 6:17 And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.

There is no doubt that Daniel was a man of conviction.

A Conviction is a strong belief that when circumstances change you will not compromise, because you believe this thing is ordered of you by God. It is a divine mandate...

The truth be told most people have little or no convictions. Their faith is of convenience and not conviction.

Consider how Daniel exhibited his conviction to obey God.

1. A Biblical Conviction Means That You Will Not Compromise For Anything..

A conviction is something you believe God commanded you to do and no amount of pressure is going to change you.

If you are threatened with jail you will not compromise a conviction..

If you are threatened with financial loss you will not compromise a conviction..

If you are threatened with death itself you will not compromise your conviction.

A conviction is a deep seated belief that this thing is commanded of you by God.

1. The truth is most people have no convictions..

Push comes to shove, they will cave..

They will not stand firm..

There are few people that have any convictions.

The Devil said this of Job..

Job 2:3 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that [there is] none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.

Job 2:4 And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life.

Job 2:5 But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.

Most people will bend under pressure,
Most people do not have any true convictions..

2. SOME EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE OF CONVICTION IN THE BIBLE..

Daniel was a man of conviction

Meshach Shadrach and Abednego were men of conviction .. They refused to bow before the image Nebuchadnezzar set up.. They were cast into the burning furnace..

The Apostle Paul was a man of conviction..

When Paul was told that if he went to Jerusalem he would be imprisoned for going there.... here is what Paul said,

Acts 21:13 Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.

In fact a qualification for missions work in Paul's mind was that it was important for a servant of Christ to have convictions. He believed John Mark failed that test

Acts 15:37 And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark.

Acts 15:38 But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work.

Acts 15:39 And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;

Acts 15:40 And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God.

Missionary Darrell Champlin had a mission board and to be accepted into his board, his missionaries had to sign a statement that they were willing if necessary to give their lives on the mission field for the cause of Christ!

So a biblical conviction is something that you would not compromise no matter how much pressure was placed on you.

II. WHAT CONVICTIONS DO YOU HAVE?

1. THE FIRST CONVICTION WE SHOULD HAVE IS OUR FAITH IN THE LORD JESUS

II Timothy 2:12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with [him]: if we deny [him], he also will deny us:

Matthew 10:32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 10:33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

If things got bad would you stand up for your faith..

I had situations at work where I had to stand alone for the faith. Even some so called believers seemed to cave...

I often wondered about this when I first was saved, would I be willing to be faithful unto death.

This is a conviction that every Christian should indeed have and examine their hearts to see if it is true in their lives.

2. EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD HAVE A CONVICTION ABOUT IDENTIFYING WITH HIS PEOPLE AND CHURCH

What was Daniel doing when he opened his window..

Notice..

Daniel 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

Daniel 6:11 Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

Daniel was openly identifying with God's people in worship. This was not a private matter it was a public identification.

Daniel openly worshipped the Lord.

No one persecutes anyone for their private beliefs..

It is only when you make your faith known publicly that you receive persecution

For thousands of years God's people have suffered for the right to worship God openly as believers.

How many Christians have been killed because they wanted to gather together with like minded believers and worship God.

II Timothy 1:8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

There are many people that are ashamed to associate with God's people because by and large these people have been a persecuted group! Don't be ashamed of God's people.

If you remember, Paul, when he was the Pharisee Saul.. was commissioned to imprison Christians who were assembling themselves together to worship Christ.

Acts 9:1 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,
Acts 9:2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

Acts 22:4 And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women.
Acts 22:5 As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished.

Paul remembered this and as he was zealous against Christ and his church so he sought to be zealous for Christ and his church.

Do you have a conviction about the need to assemble yourself together and associate with God's Church.

From the earliest days of the church.. Christians have suffered for the right to assemble themselves together.

Today you would think a lot of people just find one excuse after another for not assembling themselves together.

Reason Daniel opened his window to pray was because these three daily prayer times were not just Daniel's private devotions, they were to be in place of the three public services that were suppose to be taking place at Jerusalem. So Daniel was not able to attend a public service but his heart was with God's people and he wanted to not forsake the assembling of himself together.

Sometimes my family went on vacation and there wasn't a church we were able to get to for Prayer meeting night. So we would gather together read some Scripture together and pray together instead. This is kind of what Daniel was doing.

Daniel was obeying this verse:

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some [is]; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Daniel was having daily worship services as usual, and he wasn't going to stop having them just because of some pagan dictate or law:

This is why he prayed facing Jerusalem, this is why he opened his windows, this is why he didn't stop,

If Daniel would have stopped it would have been a declaration that the children of Israel should stop. If he stopped it would have been a declaration that Darius was to be more honored than his God!

Putting God first, is our main duty, the greatest of all commands, the supreme, mandate for every Christian, How do we show we put God first?
We show it by our sacrifices. Daniel showed it by opening his window towards Jerusalem and praying three times a day.

What is the sacrifice that we offer today.... It has already been offered through Jesus, the Lamb of God.....

When we get together, we preach that he sacrificed his life for us....

Now we open up our window each Sunday, and each time that we have scheduled services and say look to Jesus and His sacrifice for us.

3. There are other Convictions That True Christians Should Hold..

These are family convictions..
Personal Areas of separation and Sanctification ...

Did not Daniel Shadrach Meshach and Abednego purpose in their hearts not to defile themselves.. with the forbidden meats..

We should have.. Doctrinal convictions..

III. WHAT ARE YOUR CONVICTIONS..

I question if you are a person of conviction if you will not openly identify with Christ and his people.

If you are hit and miss in your worship.. I doubt you would ever do what Daniel did and pray three times a day when there was a law against it..