

**HOW TO REMAIN FIRM IN YOUR FAITH  
(in a culture that's going crazy)**

1. Stand by my CONVICTIONS.

**Daniel 1:8, 15** <sup>8</sup> And Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way ... <sup>15</sup> At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food."  
(NIV)

2. Develop COMPETENCY in order to improve life.

**Daniel 1:17-20** <sup>17</sup> To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds. <sup>18</sup> At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. <sup>19</sup> The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. <sup>20</sup> In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom." (NIV)

3. Refuse to CONFORM to culture.

**Daniel 3:16-18** <sup>16</sup> Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. <sup>17</sup> If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and He will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. <sup>18</sup> But even if He does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up." (NIV)

4. CONVEY God's truth with grace.

**Daniel 4:27** “Therefore, Your Majesty [Nebuchadnezzar], be pleased to accept my advice: Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed. It may be that then your prosperity will continue.” (NIV)

5. Maintain your CHARACTER.

**Daniel 6:3-5, 10** “<sup>3</sup> Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. <sup>4</sup> At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. <sup>5</sup> Finally these men said, “We will never find the basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God ... <sup>10</sup> Now Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.” (NIV)

6. Live with CONFIDENCE—God is in control.

**Daniel 12:8, 13** “<sup>8</sup> I heard, but I did not understand. So I asked, “My Lord, what will the outcome of all this be?” <sup>9</sup> He replied, “Go your way, Daniel, because the words are rolled up and sealed until the time of the end ... <sup>13</sup> As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance.” (NIV)

## THE RESULT OF FAITHFUL LIVING

1. People will PRAISE GOD.

**Daniel 6:25-27** “<sup>25</sup> Then King Darius wrote to all the nations and peoples of every language in all the earth: “May you prosper greatly! <sup>26</sup> I Issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence

the God of Daniel. For He is the living God and He endures forever; His kingdom will not be destroyed, His dominion will never end. <sup>27</sup> He rescues and He saves; He performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.” (NIV)

2. People will PROSPER.

**Daniel 6:28** “So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.” (NIV)

### **BOTTOM LINE**

**Luke 21:17-19** “<sup>17</sup> [Jesus said] Everyone will hate you because of me. <sup>18</sup> But not a hair of your head will perish. <sup>19</sup> **Stand firm**, and you will win life.” (NIV)