



Make a Stand for Jesus

Romans 12:2 teaches us that we are to be different from the world and not to conform to it. How can we be different when everything pushes us to give in? To not give in to the pressures of this world is to make our God's convictions, moral values, and standards ours as well. It is going about our daily life and relating with others based on God's word - the Bible. How do we make a stand for Jesus?

Train (DANIEL 1:3-8)

Making a stand for Jesus starts when we know God's Word. The more we know what's written in God's Word, the more it influences our mind, our hearts, and the more it will transform our actions (Joshua 1:8). In Daniel 1:3-4, Daniel and his friends were exiled to Babylon and chosen to serve in the king's court. They learned the culture and ways of the Babylonians and were pressured to follow the pagan culture around them. But Daniel "made up his mind not to defile himself". We see Daniel's conviction and unwavering obedience to God's will throughout his life. In chapter 6, when the king ordered that all would not pray to any god but him, Daniel continued to pray to God. For him, worshiping, praying, and obeying the Highest Authority is his highest priority. It's impossible to make a stand for Jesus if we don't know His Word. If we make it our conviction to read and meditate on God's Word, it will transform us.

Trust (DANIEL 3:14-18)

In Daniel 3:14, Daniel's friends - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego - were confronted by King Nebuchadnezzar when they refused to bow down to the king's image. However, they answered the king that they were willing to face the consequences because they believed God could rescue them, but even if God would not rescue them, they would still not bow down to King Nebuchadnezzar's image (Daniel 3:16-18). This kind of faith comes from knowing who God is and trusting that He knows what's best. We need to believe that God is who He says He is. And because He knows what's best for us and is walking with us, then we can entrust every area of our lives to Him.

this week's memory verse

And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.

MATTHEW 13:23

**DARE TO
BE DIFFERENT**

MAKE A STAND FOR JESUS

Try (DANIEL 1:9-20)

As we look back in Daniel 1:8, we see that after Daniel made up his mind not to eat the king's choice food, he appealed to the palace officer that he and his friends be given vegetables only. Amazingly, God granted Daniel favor in the sight of the commander and officials. Miraculously, at the end of 10 days, Daniel and his friends had a better appearance and looked healthier than all the others who ate the king's diet, and they were favored and honored by the king. The more we make a stand for Jesus by obeying Him, the more we encounter Him. The more we encounter Him, the more we begin to trust Him because we can prove that God is good and faithful. We make a stand when we try our best to make a stand for Jesus.

We need to make a stand for Jesus because He made a stand for us when He died on the cross for our sins. Jesus gives us hope that though the things of this world are temporary, what we have in Him is forever. Will you entrust your life to Jesus and in His power to transform and make a stand for Him? Make a stand for Jesus today and every day!

discussion questions

In what ways have you been conforming to the pattern of this world?

What do you need to do to be transformed so you will dare to be different from the world?

How will you make a stand for Jesus starting this week?

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