DANIEL

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Pastor Steve

How to Handle Challenges to Your Faith

Do yourself a favor and learn all you can; then remember what you learn and you will prosper. Proverbs 19:8 (TEV)

The wise are mightier than the strong, and those with knowledge grow stronger and stronger. Proverbs 24:5

Always remember what you have learned. Your education is your life, so guard it well. Proverbs 4:13

"Select only strong, healthy & good-looking young men," he said. "Make sure they are well versed in every branch of learning, are gifted with knowledge & good judgment & are suited to serve in the royal palace. Train these young men in the language & literature of Babylon." The king assigned them a daily ration of food & wine from his own kitchens. They were to be trained for 3 years & then they would enter the royal service. Daniel 1:4-5

Young men who were healthy & handsome, intelligent & well-educated, good prospects for leadership positions in the government, perfect specimens! & indoctrinate them in the Babylonian language & the lore of magic & fortunetelling. Daniel 1:4 (MSG)

God gave these 4 young men an unusual aptitude for understanding every aspect of literature & wisdom. God gave Daniel the special ability to interpret the meaning of visions & dreams. Daniel 1:17

When the training period ordered by the king was completed, the chief of staff brought all the young men to King Nebuchadnezzar. The king talked with them & no one impressed him as much as Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael & Azariah. So they entered the royal service. Whenever the king consulted them in any matter requiring wisdom & balanced judgment, he found them 10 times more capable than any of the magicians & enchanters in his entire kingdom. Daniel 1:18-20

How to Excel in Your Education (and not lose your faith):

I. _____ in advance to stand for God.

A) But Daniel was determined not to defile himself by eating the food & wine given to them by the king... Daniel 1:8a

B) Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. 2 Timothy 3:12

C) Start with GOD—the first step in learning is bowing down to GOD; only fools thumb their noses at such wisdom and learning. Proverbs 1:7 (MSG)

D) Reverence for the Lord is an education in itself. Proverbs 15:33a (TEV)

II. Never stop _____.

A) Wise men and women are always learning, always listening for fresh insights. Proverbs 18:15

B) Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed & who correctly explains the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15

C) Those who get wisdom do themselves a favor, and those who love learning will succeed. Proverbs 19:8 (NCV)

1. Knowledge is information that you gain from education or experience.
2. Wisdom is seeing and responding from God's viewpoint.

III. _____ myself in God's Word.

A) Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day & night so you will be sure to obey everything in it. Only then will you prosper & succeed in all you do. Joshua 1:8

B) I must learn the truth in order to discern the lies.

C) Your commandments give me understanding; no wonder I hate every false way of life. Psalm 119:104

D) Yes, I have more insight than my teachers, for I am always thinking of your laws. Psalm 119:99

E) A wise person is hungry for knowledge, while the fool feeds on trash. Proverbs 15:14

IV. Choose _____ as my best friends.

A) Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." 1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV)

B) Stay away from fools, for you won't find knowledge on their lips. Proverbs 14:7

C) "Fools show their stupidity by the way they live; it's easy to see they have no sense." Ecclesiastes 10:3 (CEV)

D) Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers. But they delight in the law of the LORD, meditating on it day and night. Psalm 1:1-2

V. Stay connected to a _____, a small group and a ministry.

A) Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another & all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:25

B) For where 2 or 3 gather together as my followers, I am there among them." Matthew 18:20

C) It is God's will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you. 1 Peter 2:15

VI. Remember that God will _____ me.

A) God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way. Matthew 5:11-12

B) Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:9-11