

1 John 2:15-17 “Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.”

3. CHOOSE TO FOCUS ON THE PERMANENT NOT THE PASSING.

Daniel 1:19-20 “The king talked with them, and no one impressed him as much as Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. So they entered the royal service. Whenever the king consulted them in any matter requiring wisdom and balanced judgment, he found them ten times more capable than any of the magicians and enchanters in his entire kingdom.”

Advancing for God requires you to focus on the eternal not the earthly.

Hebrews 11:24-26 “It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. He chose to share the oppression of God’s people instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin. He thought it was better to suffer for the sake of Christ than to own the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to his great reward.”

Memory Verse: James 4:4 “Don’t you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God.”



ADVANCE WITH FOCUS

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The Story of Daniel

Daniel 1:8 “Daniel was determined not to defile himself by eating the food and wine given to them by the king.”

The Three Important Choices to ADVANCE WITH FOCUS

1. CHOOSE TO FOCUS ON PLEASING GOD NOT PLEASING PEOPLE.

Daniel 1:8 “But Daniel was determined not to defile himself by eating the food and wine given to them by the king. He asked the chief of staff for permission not to eat these unacceptable foods.”

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1 Peter 2:9 “But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for He called you out of the darkness into His wonderful light.”

Choose to be remembered for standing out rather than forgotten for blending in.

2 Corinthians 6:16-18 “And what union can there be between God’s temple and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God said: ‘I will live in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they will be My people. Therefore, come out from among unbelievers, and separate yourselves from them,’ says the Lord. ‘Don’t touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you. And I will be your Father, and you will be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.’”

Matthew 6:24 “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other.”

James 4:4 “Don’t you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God.”

When you focus on pleasing God, it will sustain you in the face of public opposition.

Romans 12:2 “Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.”

2. CHOOSE TO FOCUS ON PURPOSE NOT PLEASURE.

Daniel 1:15, 17 “At the end of the ten days, Daniel and his three friends looked healthier and better nourished than the young men who had been eating the food assigned by the king. God gave these four young men an unusual aptitude for understanding every aspect of literature and wisdom. And God gave Daniel the special ability to interpret the meanings of visions and dreams.”

If you don’t stand for the right thing, you’ll fall for anything.

Romans 6:16-19 “Don’t you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living. Previously, you let yourselves be slaves to impurity and lawlessness, which led ever deeper into sin. Now you must give yourselves to be slaves to righteous living so that you will become holy.”

You will never experience everything God has for you till you surrender everything you have to Him.

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