

## How to Face Life Unafraid

By  
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*“Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us” (Daniel 3:17).*

There is no greater tragedy than to drift through life aimlessly and listlessly. A person who is guided by no life purpose is like a ship on an uncharted sea without a rudder or like a man lost in the maze of a jungle with no compass to guide him out. And yet just any kind of life purpose will not do. To have just any kind of a purpose is as bad as having no purpose at all. A life purpose to be of real value must be a purpose of the heart and must include God.

We are told in the Bible of a several young men who purposed in his heart. They were Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and Daniel. They were taken from their homes in Jerusalem when just youths of nineteen or twenty and carried to Babylon. In a pagan environment with many influences calculated to rub all thoughts of God out of their minds, they purposed in their hearts that they would not defile themselves. And in their Godly purpose, these young men set an example and threw out a challenge for all time.

Just look at Daniel. A mere cursory glance at the record of his life reveals distinct virtues realized by this young man as a result of his facing life with such a worthy purpose. For one thing, Daniel’s purpose enabled him to build a strong, stalwart character. A Godly purpose untiringly pursued has its fruit in Godly character. There is nothing that the world needs today more than it needs such character. The business world places great emphasis on character. Many of the questions in a job interview revolve around character. Reputation is what one is labeled as; character is what one is. Daniel’s

character withstood the heathen influences of his adopted land. It weathered every fierce storm that he encountered and he faced many of them. It defied death and persecution and intrigue. The Babylon of Daniel's time has long since passed away, but the character of Daniel lives today. When we read about him, we find the incentive to be like him.

A life purpose which gives God his rightful place instills confidence in oneself and in God. We this illustrated in the second chapter of Daniel. King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream which left him when we awoke. The king was disturbed because he felt that the dream portended something that he ought to know. Furious that his wise men could not tell him his forgotten dream, he decreed their deaths. Daniel and his Hebrew companions counted among the wise men, facing death as well. Daniel requested the king to allow them just a little more time.

In the night Daniel and his companions prayed for God to reveal to them the king's dream and its interpretation. They had confidence in themselves and in God. Sometime in the night God answered prayer and gave the dream and its interpretation to Daniel. The next morning this young man stood before the king with the information that he sought. A purpose that includes God inspires confidence in oneself and in the God of the impossible.

The right kind of purpose helps to maintain a good conscience. If a person did not have to live with himself, he might afford to be careless with his conscience. But we must live with ourselves so we should be true to ourselves. Daniel's purpose kept him from violating his good conscience. The reason so many people are miserable today and making shipwrecks of life is because they have not given due attention to keeping a good

conscience. A great man of the New Testament whose life is worthy of emulation said, “I do exercise myself daily to have a conscience void of offense before God and Man.”

A Godly purpose will enable one to keep himself personally pure. There are so many influences abroad ready to rob the unwary of that priceless treasure called purity. This world is a modern Jericho road where evil agencies by the scores hide in the shadows like thieves and robbers, ready to pounce upon the unsuspecting who happen to pass by. And every year hundreds of thousands of people fall victim to these evil influences. Daniel’s purpose, which included God and which was rooted deeply in his heart, prevented him from defiling himself in Babylon. Such a purpose is needed today as never before. If Daniel needed a Godly purpose as the motivating factor of his life in that far distant day, how much more do we need such a purpose in this time of ours.

This worthy purpose of Daniel, which was also embraced by his Hebrew companions, fostered in them an unconquerable spirit. It gave them the courage to face life unafraid. These men did not live in the future – worrying about what they hoped would be someday. They did not live in the past – worrying about what they would do if they could do it over. They lived in the here and now. They knew how to face life unafraid. When told to bow down to the image in the plain of Dura, these three Hebrew men refused. They stood when others bowed the knee all around them. When reprovved by the king for defying his command, they let it be known that they were not afraid of his threats. They believed God to be able to deliver them out of the king’s fiery furnace. But if he did not choose to deliver them, they would go to their deaths before they would bow down and pay homage to the king’s golden image.

Nebuchadnezzar heated the furnace seven times hotter than it had ever been heated and then, he had these young men thrown in. He gave full vent to his fury, but what good did it do? He might have tried anything else. He was defeated the moment these young men said “No” to worshipping his image. They had an unconquerable spirit. They knew how to face life unafraid. God had the prominent place in their purpose for life, and he vindicated them in their time of need as he will always do. The intense heat of the fire had no effect upon them.

When the decree was passed that no one should make petitions to God or man save the king for thirty days, Daniel went on with his praying three times each day as was his custom. He was spied upon and condemned to the lion’s den. But that did not daunt his courageous spirit. The lion’s den did not scare him. It could be truly said that anywhere was home to Daniel if God was there. His Godly purpose had given him an unconquerable spirit and faith that enabled him to face life serenely and unafraid. God respected Daniel and sent an angel to lock the jaws of the lions so that the prophet had a good night of rest.

The greatest apostle of the New Testament said that he had learned to hold himself together in every circumstance of life and not go to pieces. What trivial things today make us go to pieces? What small and insignificant things get us down? It may be that we do not face life with the kind of purpose that Daniel and his friends had. It may be that we do not give God the place in our lives that these men did.

Well, to say the least, life for us is not any simpler than it was when Daniel lived. In fact, it is just the reverse. Our civilization is a complex one. Life is far more

complicated. We don't have to face fiery furnaces and dens of lions, but we have many things today that tend to take the joy out of life.

If we want to keep ourselves personally pure, if we want to maintain a good conscience and build strong character, if we want to possess an unconquerable spirit and face life unafraid, then we must have a life purpose which gives God his rightful place. The path to noble purpose is to repent of sin, forsake sin, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, accept him as personal Savior, and walk in the light as he guides. God give us that purpose to face life and eternity unafraid.