

**Aveleigh Year of The Bible, Sept. 16 2018**  
**Sermon Series: FAITH UNSHAKABLE!— Part 2 of 9**  
Nine Weekly Reflections On Daniel's Life & Book  
Text in bulletin : Proverbs 17:3 (NLT)

***SERMON TITLE: WHEN YOU'RE PRESSURED TO CONFORM***

- L. Let us worship God in gratitude for all that God has done for us.  
P. Amen. God has greatly enriched our lives.  
L. But let us be careful that we not allow ourselves to become conformed to lesser causes.  
P. Help us, Lord, to curb all thoughts of resentment, and grant us Faith Unshakable.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Heavenly Father, we acknowledge that though we come from you, we have not always followed the guidance you have given us in Jesus Christ. Do not leave unfinished the work you have begun in us. Though there is more to know about you than we can ever learn, we are often distracted from our search for the truth. Even when we have known Jesus to be the way, we have been diverted and conformed to lesser things. Forgive, renew, and grant us Faith Unshakable  
Amen

**MITCH's pastoral prayer not in bulletin**

*We gather together as a community of believers. We gather together seeking solace and encouragement. We gather together to hear yet again your calling for us. We wish that we could have been called like Paul on the road to Damascus with a blinding light, or Moses with a burning bush. We long for our calling to be that clear, that unequivocal. But more often it is not; we do not know if we are a hand, a foot, an eye or even an ear. Lord, we ask that during this service we hear and feel again your guiding spirit stirring our souls. Amen.*

*From your fullness, O God, we have received grace upon grace. Grant that we will be good stewards of your gifts and graces. May we resist the impulse to live for ourselves instead of for others. May we choose generosity over greed and humility over influence and power. We pray in the name of the One you sent to save us, Jesus the Christ. Amen.*

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**Text: Daniel 1:5,8 p. 946**

**SERMON TITLE: WHEN YOU’RE PRESSURED TO CONFORM**

*“Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but the Lord tests the heart.” Proverbs 17:3 (NLT)*

**INTRO: BEFORE EVERY BLESSING THERE’S ALWAYS A TESTING.**

*“We speak God’s message because God tested us and trusted us to do it. When we speak, we are not trying to please people, but God, who tests our hearts.” 1 Thessalonians 2:4 (NCV)*

**FIRST FILL IN:** God \_\_\_\_\_ with stress before He \_\_\_\_\_ with success

*“The king ordered that the young men should eat the same food and wine served at the king’s table while they were being trained. After that they were to become servants of the king of Babylon . . . But Daniel resolved not to defile himself by eating the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.” Daniel 1:5, 8*

DEFILE — to pollute, contaminate, or corrupt. A loss of purity

**1. DANIEL’S FIRST TEST, WHEN YOU ARE PRESSURED TO CONFORM, SHOWS . . .**

**4 QUALITIES GOD LOOKS FOR IN YOUR LIFE**

**1. INTEGRITY – HE NEVER FORGOT WHO HE WAS.**

*“Daniel resolved not to defile himself . . .” Daniel 1:8a (NIV)*

*“Don’t conform yourself to the values of this world. Instead, let God transform you by a complete change of how you think. Then you will be able to know the will of God . . .”*

Romans 12:2 (TEV)

**2. DISCIPLINE – HE CONTROLLED HIS EGO AND HIS APPETITE**

*“Daniel made up his mind not to eat the food and wine given to them by the king.” Daniel 1:8a (LB)*

*“Do not let any part of your body become a tool of wickedness used for sinning; instead give yourself completely to God . . . because you want to be a tool in the hands of God used for his good purposes.” Romans 6:13*

### **3. COURAGE: HE WAS WILLING TO STAND ALONE.**

*“Never follow the crowd in doing wrong, and don’t be swayed in your testimony by the mood of the majority.” Exodus 23:2 (GW/LB)*

*“Stand true to what you believe. Be courageous. Be strong!” 1 Corinthians 16:13*

### **4. HUMILITY: HE WAS TACTFUL WITH AUTHORITY.**

## **II. HOW TO MAKE YOUR CASE TO AN AUTHORITY**

*“Then Daniel asked chief official for permission to eat other things instead.  
Daniel 1:8b-16, 18-19*

#### **1. DEVELOP A REPUTATION FOR RESPONSIBILITY.**

#### **2. BE HUMBLE AND NOT BELLIGERENT.**

#### **3. DON’T BE DECEPTIVE OR MANIPULATIVE.**

#### **4. APPEAL TO THEIR GOALS AND THEIR INTERESTS.**

#### **5. CHOOSE THE RIGHT PLACE, TIME AND WORDS.**

#### **6. TRUST GOD IF THEY REJECT YOUR APPEAL.**

**PRAYER:** Loving God, When we are pressured to conform, grant us Faith Unshakable. Amen.

- 1. FOUR FOR THE ROAD:** *If you asked a coworker to describe your work style or reputation, what do you believe they would share with you?*
- What would you want coworkers to say about your work?*

We reject all shameful and underhanded methods. We don’t try to trick anyone or distort the word of God. We tell the truth before God, and all who are honest know that. *2 Corinthians 4:2 (NLT)*

- What behaviors in 2 Corinthians 4:2 are we encouraged to embrace and how do they help guard against being deceitful or manipulative?*

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. *Romans 8:28 (NIV)*

- If your appeal is rejected, trust God that he let that happen for a reason. How can knowing God’s promises help you to hold on in the face of apparent failure? There are more than 700 promises that God has given us in the Bible. Spend time over the next week finding a promise to claim.*