

THE “NOW GOD” FACTOR

Guardrails, Part 5

Daniel 1

Pastor Ken Ritz * Oct 9, 2011 * New Life Vineyard Church

Review of past weeks:

- Guardrail: **A personal standard of behavior, that becomes a matter of conscience.**
- Your greatest regret would probably have been avoided if you had guardrails in your life.
- You may need guardrails that protect you in areas of spending, eating or drinking, habits or addictions, working hours, internet, television, gambling, or any other area of life that might cause you to lose self-control.
- Our culture encourages us to go right up to the edge of disaster financially, sexually, and in other areas.
- We all want the people we love to have guardrails, but we're not sure we want or need them for ourselves.

Regardless of whether you establish guardrails or not, the tension and temptation will not simply go away.

- Temptation doesn't decrease just because you allow yourself to go right to the edge; in fact, it usually gets worse.
- Refusing to have guardrails does not eliminate tension or temptation. All it does is bring you to a place of temptation where you're on the edge of danger, so now if you give in or stumble the consequences are much worse.

Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility... He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians.

The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service.

Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. The chief official gave them new names...

Daniel 1:3-7

Compromise Does Not Erase The Tension, It Only
_____ Our Resolve.

- When it comes to temptation: **The key to winning is to stop right at the beginning.**

But Daniel resolved...

Daniel 1:8

Daniel _____ To Honor God

But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.

Daniel 1:8

Now God... Daniel 1:9

The “Now God” Factor:

God will use your guardrails to not just protect you,
but to _____ you
and _____ you.

- When Daniel decided to honor God, it was a defining moment.
- Because of his decision to honor God, God started a process of directing him and blessing him for the rest of his life.
- Daniel had no idea what hung in the balance of his decision... and you have no idea what hangs in the balance of your decision.

Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel.

Daniel 1:9

Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, "Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then compare our appearance..."

At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food...

To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds...

The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service.

Daniel 1:11-17,19