

When Your Beliefs Are Belittled

UNSHAKABLE! Thriving No Matter What They Throw At You — Part 3

January 29, 2017

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

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

“Wisdom brings strength, and knowledge gives power.” Proverbs 24:5 (CEV)

DANIEL’S THIRD TEST: CHALLENGES TO HIS FAITH

“King Nebuchadnezzar commanded: Select young men . . . and make sure they are well versed in every branch of learning . . . Teach these young men all the language and literature of the Babylonians . . . They are to be trained for three years, then some will serve the king after they graduate.” Daniel 1:4-5

“God gave these four young men an unusual aptitude for learning the literature and science of that time.” Daniel 1:17a

“When the three-year training was completed, the chief official brought all the young men to King Nebuchadnezzar. The king talked with each of them, and none impressed him as much as Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. So they were appointed to his regular staff as advisers! In all matters requiring wisdom and balanced judgment, the king found the advice of these young men to be ten times better than that of all the magicians and enchanters in his entire kingdom!” Daniel 1:18-20

How To Excel In Your Education And Not Lose Your Faith.

1. **DECIDE** in advance to stand for God.

“Daniel made up his mind not to defile himself . . .” Daniel 1:8a

“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 (Mes)

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

“All wisdom comes from the Lord, and so do common sense and understanding. God gives helpful advice to everyone who obeys him and protects all of those who live as they should.” Proverbs 2:6-7 (CEV)

2. Never stop **LEARNING**.

“Wise men and women are always learning, always listening for fresh insights.” Proverbs 18:15 (Mes)

“Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that isn’t ashamed.” 2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)

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

✦ **KNOWLEDGE**: *information gained from education or experience*

✦ **WISDOM**: **SEEING** and **RESPONDING** from God’s viewpoint!

3. **STEEP** myself in God’s Word.

“Study God’s Word continually. Meditate on it day and night so you may be sure to obey all that’s written in it. If you do you will be prosperous and successful.” Joshua 1:8

*I must **LEARN** the truth in order to **DISCERN** the lies.*

“Your commandments give me great understanding. It’s no wonder I can see and hate every false way of life.” Psalm 119:104 (NLT)

“A wise person is hungry for truth, while the fool feeds on trash.” Proverbs 15:14 (NLT)

4. Choose **BELIEVERS** as my best friends.

“Do not be misled: ‘Bad company corrupts good character.’” 1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV)

“Stay away from fools, or you won't learn a thing.” Proverbs 14:7 (CEV)

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

“The happiest people — the ones God blesses — don't WALK with those who suggest doing wrong, don't STAND with those who like to sin, and don't SIT AROUND with cynics who deny God.” Psalm 1:1

5. Stay **CONNECTED** to a church, life group and a ministry.

All 3 are essential for input, output & *support*

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another . . .” Hebrews 10:25a (NIV)

“It is God's will that you live such a good life that it silences those who foolishly condemn the Gospel without knowing what it can do for them.” 1 Peter 2:15

6. Remember that God will **REWARD** me.

Jesus: “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” Matthew 5:11-12 (NIV)