

Motivation For Commitment

Daniel 1:1-8

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Fifth Street East Church of Christ
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Motivations For Commitment

I. Motive = "an inner drive, impulse, that causes one to act in a certain way" (Webster's New World Dictionary)

- all kinds of motives behind people's actions (wealth, approval, position, appearance)
- what motivates a Christian to live a committed life to the end?
- A study of Daniel and his friends reveal challenges and motivations to live committed to God: Daniel 1:1-7

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II. Motivations for commitment from Daniel

A. Taking personal responsibility: Daniel 1:8

1. He didn't watch what others did before deciding: Luke 14:26; John 12:42-43
2. Daniel's purposed heart was a determination to please God without compromise. He overcame:
 - fear of king's punishment
 - temptation for new, better food
 - blaming God for his troubles
 - following majority of Jewish boys
 - fear of feeling alone (no parents, etc.)

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3. Our motive for commitment should be out of a heart of thanksgiving and praise to God: Colossians 3:17; Ephesians 1:3; Revelation 4:11; James 1:17

B. Understanding God has a purpose for our lives

1. Many give little to no thought to why we're here: Ecclesiastes 12:13
2. With all of Daniel's governmental responsibilities, he still put God first: Daniel 6
 - he was deliberate, unashamed: 10, 1 Peter 4:16
 - humble in prayer: 9:3ff.; 1 Peter 5:6-7
 - took time to be holy: 1 Peter 1:14-15

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- he was filled with gratitude to God
- he studied God's word: Daniel 9:2
- he was determined nothing would stop him from serving God

3. We must be clear regarding our purpose in life: Ephesians 2:10; Philippians 1:21; 3:8-11; 1 Peter 2:9; Titus 2:11-12

C. Knowing That God Can Work In Our Lives: Daniel 1:9, 17; 2:47-49

1. Trust in God's power and providence in our lives: Romans 8:28; Philippians 2:12-13; 4:13; Ephesians 3:14-21

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D. A Good Influence On Others: Daniel 6:14-16; Matthew 5:13-16; Galatians 6:10

F. The kingdom of God: Daniel 2:44; John 18:36; Colossians 1:13; 2 Corinthians 5:12-14; Romans 5:8

G. To Not Be A Hypocrite: Daniel 6:4; 2 Timothy 3:5; 1 John 1:6, 8, 10

H. The Recompense of God: Daniel 5:24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:10