

Your Extraordinary Life

Aligned with God

I. Our Choices

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 (NASB)

¹⁹ "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that **I have set before you life and death**, the blessing and the curse. **So choose life** in order that you may live, you and your descendants, ²⁰ by loving the Lord your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."

A. Kingdom Decision

John 8:39-44 (NIV)

³⁹ "**Abraham is our father**," they answered. "If you were Abraham's children," said Jesus, "then you would do the things Abraham did. ⁴⁰ As it is, you are determined to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things. ⁴¹ You are doing the things your own father does." "We are not illegitimate children," they protested. "The only Father we have is God himself." ⁴² Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me. ⁴³ Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. ⁴⁴ **You belong to your father, the devil**, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

John 3:3 (NIV)

Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

Romans 10:9 (NIV)

⁹ That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

B. "Spiritual Health"

Mark 2:15-17 (NIV)

¹⁵ While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. ¹⁶ When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the "sinners" and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" ¹⁷ On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "**It is not the healthy** who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

C. "Spiritual Maturity"

Ephesians 4:15 (NIV)

we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

John 16:12 (NIV)

¹² "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear.

An extra-ordinary life emerges not from exceptional physical ability, intellectual capacity or unique birth circumstances. An extra-ordinary life reflects an awareness of God and a persistent willingness to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in allowing our character to be transformed.

II. Daniel: extraordinary life?

A. Secular opinion

Daniel 5:11-12 (NASB)

¹¹ "There is a man in your kingdom in whom is a spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of your father, illumination, insight and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him. . . . ¹² " *This was* because **an extraordinary spirit**, knowledge and insight, interpretation of dreams, explanation of enigmas and solving of difficult problems were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar.

B. God Perspective

Daniel 10:10-11 (NIV)

¹⁰ A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. ¹¹ He said, "Daniel, **you who are highly esteemed**, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you." And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling.

Daniel 10:18-19 (NIV)

¹⁸ Again the one who looked like a man touched me and gave me strength. ¹⁹ "Do not be afraid, O **man highly esteemed**," he said. "Peace! Be strong now; be strong." When he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, "Speak, my lord, since you have given me strength."

C. Life Lessons from Daniel

1) Daniel's life circumstances were _____

2) Decision to _____

Daniel 1:8 (NIV)

⁸ 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.

Matthew 12:35 (NIV)

³⁵ The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.

3) _____ began

Daniel 1:15-17 (NIV)

¹⁵ At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. ¹⁶ So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead. ¹⁷ **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.

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Prayer

Today I choose a God directed life. I want to live for the glory of Jesus Christ. Even though I am weak, God's strength is at work in me. Through the blood of Jesus I have been redeemed, cleansed, forgiven and justified. I am a child of the living God. The Holy Spirit is my helper. God is watching over my days and ordering my steps. My hope is in the God of heaven and earth. Amen.

KEY: not ideal; avoid defilement; transformation