

Growing Through Pressure to Compromise

DANIEL 6

During the dark days of World War II, compromisers sold out to Hitler and jeopardized the lives of the resistance fighters, who were known as the Fifth Column in France and Quislings in Norway. Those names became synonymous with traitorous conduct that compromised the values of freedom and liberty in exchange for dictatorship and bondage. On the other hand, in Holland many Christians, such as Corrie ten Boom, could have compromised the lives of Jewish refugees, but they didn't. Instead, they risked their own lives to hide these refugees. Daniel was like that. He refused to compromise his faith in God even when facing certain death.

1. In what situations today are people pressured to compromise their Christian values and practices?

READ DANIEL 6:1-14.

2. Why did the king's changes in administration cause trouble for Daniel (verses 1-5)?
3. Daniel's integrity, hard work, and moral example did not exempt him from attack. What issues were behind the administrators' attack on Daniel's faith?
4. What aspects of your faith and character might be evident to your coworkers?
5. Why do you think Darius agreed to issue the decree the leaders requested (verses 6-9)?

6. Imagine yourself as Daniel. After hearing about the decree, how would you have decided what to do (verses 10-11)?
7. What difference does it make in your praying when you realize that God alone can help you (verse 11)?
8. The leaders were sure they had the perfect trap when they asked the king about his decree and then announced that Daniel had broken it. What might Darius have been feeling as he tried to find a way out of the trap he created (verses 12-14)?

What might this day have been like for Daniel?

Pray the Bible into Life

- Thank God that he fully understands both the pressure you feel to compromise and your desire to honor him.
- Ask God to help you live and work in ways that will make your coworkers and neighbors curious about your faith.
- If you are in a group, pray for one another to be able to withstand the pressure to compromise this week.