


**LESSON 7 // PROTECT YOUR SOUL**

**Big Idea:** In Daniel 1-6, we see four young men successfully navigate significant pressures. This includes a test Daniel faced to compromise his soul for prestige, power, position and possessions. The world offers enticing rewards and passing pleasures, but an ungodly pursuit of these affects the health of our soul. We need to resist this temptation by valuing, feeding and protecting our soul.

> ***Daniel 5:16 (NLT)*** *I am told that you can give interpretations and solve difficult problems. If you can read these words and tell me their meaning, you will be clothed in purple robes of royal honor, and you will have a gold chain placed around your neck. You will become the third highest ruler in the kingdom.*
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> ***Hebrews 11:24-26 (NLT)*** *It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. 25 He chose to share the oppression of God's people instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin. 26 He thought it was better to suffer for the sake of Christ than to own the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to his great reward.*
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> ***Psalms 37:4 (NLT)*** *Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you your heart's desires.*
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> ***Daniel 5:17 (NLT)*** *Daniel answered the king, "Keep your gifts or give them to someone else, but I will tell you what the writing means."*
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> ***3 John 1:2 (NKJV)*** *Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.*

**Start Talking:**

Is your walk with the Lord more of a duty or delight for you? Why do you think this is the case?

**Start Thinking:**

**Read Daniel 5:16 and Hebrews 11:24-26**. What do you learn from these verses about the allure of the world to compromise your soul, and how to overcome this?

**Read Psalms 37:4.** What does it mean to "take delight in the Lord"? How can this help protect your soul?

**Read Daniel 5:17.** How does Daniel's integrity and strong stand against the world's temptations to compromise encourage you in your struggles?

**Read 3 John 1:2.** What are some practical ways you can live every day so that your soul "prospers"? What are some of the benefits that come from this?

**Start Praying and Doing:**

Compromise is a choice*. And refusing to compromise is a choice.* Every day we have to choose what we will do with the temptations in front of us and with the God who is with us. Pray for the courage to choose wisely and well to "delight yourself in the Lord" and His ways. Seek your joy and peace in Him and not the things of this world. For "the world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever" (1 John 2:17).