

Eph 4:11-15
Dan 1:2-17
"Purpose in Your Heart"

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1. Introduction

a. Purpose: deposit of truth in the conscience resulting in life commitment

b. Why did Jesus Christ give the church officers in the church
- found in verse 12

c. What gifted people did Jesus Christ give to the church (vs 11)
- apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors & teachers

d. Purpose of spiritually gifted church leaders (vs 12)
- for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry
- for the edifying (building up) of the body of Christ

2. Example of Daniel

a. Dan 1:3-4, 6-9

- Daniel purposed in his heart to follow Moses' law
* to not defile himself with unclean foods

b. Daniel purposed to chief of eunuchs a vegetarian diet

- Dan 1:11-12
- easiest & simple diet plan for Gentiles to offer
* vegetables & water

c. Daniel made commitment with his 3 friends

3. Faith Becomes Personal
- Daniel first made internal decision
 - God's work: Daniel brought into chief of eunuch's good will & favor (1:9)
 - Daniel captive in Babylon (1:2-3)
 - he was probably a youth or very young adult
 - he was probably made a eunuch
 - Daniel had inner conviction of following God's law
 - he probably influenced by Jeremiah the prophet in last day of kings of Judah

4. Influence Becomes Powerful
- Captives taken in first removal
 - Highest in rank
 - Best educated
 - Intelligent
 - Dan 1:3-4) & good looking
 - Only 4 names given as influencers of all captives taken to Babylon
 - Dan 1:6-7
 - all individually known in palace
 - Daniel powerful influencer on King Nebuchadnezzar in chap 2
 - Daniel's 3 friend powerful testimony to King Nebuchadnezzar in chap 3

5. Example of Faith (Ruth 1:
- Powerful influence of Naomi on her daughters-in law (1:4, 7, 14)
 - they wanted to follow Naomi to ^{Judea}
 - But Ruth refused to return home to Moab (1:16-17)
 - declaration of conversion & faith
 - Naomi called Ruth "daughter" (2:2)
 - Ruth, woman of faith, great grandmother to King David
 - Ruth 4:17-22
 - Mt 1:5
 - * Boaz begat Obed ~~by Ruth~~ by Ruth