

# GREG'S NOTES

## A NEW BEGINNING TEACHING OUTLINES

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### STAYING COOL WHEN THINGS GET HOT

Daniel 1

It has been said, “The measure of a man’s real character is what he would do if he knew he would never be found out.” What is character or integrity? It is what you are when you are alone, when there is no one around to impress. Character and integrity pick up where the fear of being caught leaves off. While fear is a good deterrent and has its place, a better motive is the desire to do what is right.

#### PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

1. **We need to be people of principle, because our principles will be challenged in every way.** Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were living in a culture that was largely hostile to their beliefs, and we are living in the same kind of culture today.
2. **We need more men and women of purpose today.** Daniel “purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself . . .” (Daniel 1:8). Choose to live in such a way that your life will glorify God.
3. **Making a stand in the small areas now will give us the strength to make a stand in the big ones later.** The evening of a life is determined by the morning of it. The decisions we make today will play out tomorrow.

#### RELEVANT REMINDERS

Character may be manifested in the great moments, but it is made in the small ones. Character is not made in a crisis; it is only exhibited.

#### APPLICABLE ACTIONS

Are you compromising in little areas? Little things will become big things. Little compromises will become big compromises. A little honesty here will mean a lot more of it later. A little deception here will mean a lot more of it later. There always will be temptations to take the shortcut or the easy path. Choose instead to do what is right and honorable before God.