



stand & LOVE FIRM well

**How to be Faithful to God and Genuinely Love Others
When Engaging Culture that is at Odds with Faith in Jesus**

Part 4

**Invest in Genuine Connection
Not Correction**

Daniel 2:1

One night during the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had such disturbing dreams that he couldn't sleep.

Daniel 2:2

**He called in his magicians,
enchanters, sorcerers, and
astrologers, and he demanded that
they tell him what he had dreamed.**

As they stood before the king,

Daniel 2:3

he said, “I have had a dream that deeply troubles me, and I must know what it means.”

Daniel 2:4

Then the astrologers answered the king in Aramaic, “Long live the king! Tell us the dream, and we will tell you what it means.”

Daniel 2:5

**But the king said to the astrologers,
“I am serious about this. If you
don’t tell me what my dream was
and what it means, you will be torn
limb from limb, and your houses
will be turned into heaps of rubble!**

Daniel 2:6

But if you tell me what I dreamed and what the dream means, I will give you many wonderful gifts and honors. Just tell me the dream and what it means!”

Daniel 2:7

They said again, “Please, Your Majesty. Tell us the dream, and we will tell you what it means.”

Daniel 2:8

The king replied, “I know what you are doing! You’re stalling for time because you know I am serious when I say,

Daniel 2:9

‘If you don’t tell me the dream, you are doomed.’ So you have conspired to tell me lies, hoping I will change my mind. But tell me the dream, and then I’ll know that you can tell me what it means.”

Daniel 2:10

**The astrologers replied to the king,
“No one on earth can tell the king
his dream! And no king, however
great and powerful, has ever asked
such a thing of any magician,
enchanter, or astrologer!**

Daniel 2:11

The king's demand is impossible.
No one except the gods can tell you
your dream, and they do not live
here among people.”

Daniel 2:12

The king was furious when he heard this, and he ordered that all the wise men of Babylon be executed.

Daniel 2:13

**And because of the king's decree,
men were sent to find and kill
Daniel and his friends.**

Daniel 2:14

When Arioch, the commander of the king's guard, came to kill them, Daniel handled the situation with wisdom and discretion.

Daniel 2:15

He asked Arioch, “Why has the king issued such a harsh decree?”

So Arioch told him all that had happened.

Daniel 2:16

Daniel went at once to see the king and requested more time to tell the king what the dream meant.

Daniel 2:17

Then Daniel went home and told his friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah what had happened.

Daniel 2:18

He urged them to ask the God of heaven to show them his mercy by telling them the secret, so they would not be executed along with the other wise men of Babylon.

Daniel 2:19

That night the secret was revealed
to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel
praised the God of heaven.

Daniel 2:20

**He said, “Praise the name of God
forever and ever, for he has all
wisdom and power.**

Daniel 2:21

He controls the course of world events; he removes kings and sets up other kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars.

Daniel 2:22

He reveals deep and mysterious things and knows what lies hidden in darkness, though he is surrounded by light.

Daniel 2:23

**I thank and praise you, God of
my ancestors, for you have given
me wisdom and strength.
You have told me what we asked
of you and revealed to us what
the king demanded.”**

Daniel 2:24a

**Then Daniel went in to see Arioch,
whom the king had ordered to
execute the wise men of Babylon.**

Daniel 2:24b

Daniel said to him, “Don’t kill the wise men. Take me to the king, and I will tell him the meaning of his dream.”

Daniel 2:25

Arioach quickly took Daniel to the king and said, “I have found one of the captives from Judah who will tell the king the meaning of his dream!”

Daniel 2:26

The king said to Daniel (also known as Belteshazzar), “Is this true? Can you tell me what my dream was and what it means?”

Daniel 2:27

Daniel replied, “There are no wise men, enchanters, magicians, or fortune-tellers who can reveal the king’s secret.

Daniel 2:28

But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and he has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in the future. Now I will tell you your dream and the visions you saw as you lay on your bed.

Daniel 2:29

**While Your Majesty was sleeping,
you dreamed about coming events.
He who reveals secrets has shown
you what is going to happen.**

Daniel 2:30

And it is not because I am wiser than anyone else that I know the secret of your dream, but because God wants you to understand what was in your heart.

Daniel 2:45b

The great God was showing the king what will happen in the future. The dream is true, and its meaning is certain.

Daniel 2:46

Then King Nebuchadnezzar threw himself down before Daniel and worshiped him, and he commanded his people to offer sacrifices and burn sweet incense before him.

Daniel 2:47

The king said to Daniel, “Truly, your God is the greatest of gods, the Lord over kings, a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this secret.”

Daniel 2:48

Then the king appointed Daniel to a high position and gave him many valuable gifts. He made Daniel ruler over the whole province of Babylon, as well as chief over all his wise men.

Daniel 2:49

At Daniel's request, the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to be in charge of all the affairs of the province of Babylon, while Daniel remained in the king's court.



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Their “Compromises”

- **Willingly left Judah to be captives in Babylon.**
- **Submitted to being educated by their enemies' pagan educational systems.**

Their “Compromises”

- **Embraced a foreign language and a foreign culture.**
- **Were given new names that dishonored their God.**
- **Made eunuchs?**

Their “Compromises”

- Daniel wrote his book in both Hebrew and Aramaic. Chapter 1 and chapters 8-12 were written in Hebrew, while chapters 2-7 were written in Aramaic.

Principle #1

**Connection creates a solid
foundation for conversation.**

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**Connection creates a solid
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Principle #2

Our connection with God is meant to fuel our connection with others.

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Principle #3

We must genuinely connect with those who don't know the Lord so they can experience the supernatural power, love, mercy, grace and forgiveness of God through us.

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Principle #4

**More often than not,
connection sparks the correction
that people need.**

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Principle #4

**More often than not,
connection sparks the correction
that people need.**

Principle #5

Genuine connection is not about correction, it is about having genuine influence on a regular basis.

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Principle #5

Genuine connection is not about correction, it is about having genuine influence on a regular basis.

Principle #6

**Correction without connection
breeds rejection.**

Principle #7

**As daughters and sons of the King,
we have a serious responsibility to
accurately reflect the Father's
heart in the ways we connect
and the ways we correct.**

Questions for Discernment

Is it my place to correct this person?

Do I have a personal relationship and a genuine connection with this person? Or am I being a busybody?

Questions for Discernment

**How long have I been in prayer
asking God to correct this person
Himself?**

**Has God told me that it is my
responsibility to correct this person?**

Questions for Discernment

How long have I born this burden?

Has my patience and long suffering run out? How about God's?

Have a diverse group of spiritual elders evaluated my motives?

Questions for Discernment

Has the spirit of self-righteousness and hypocrisy been removed from my heart?

Am I carrying my cross before I pull the trigger on correcting someone?

Questions for Discernment

How would Christ correct this person?

How is the Holy Spirit asking me to correct this person?

Principle #7

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