



Hebrews 11:32-35

## The Influence of Faith

***32 "And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: 33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. 35 Women received their dead raised to life again."***

**Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael (Mi shy el), and Azariah. 7 The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.**

The name **Daniel** (meaning *God is my judge*) was changed to **Belteshazzar** (meaning *Bel's prince*).

ii. The name **Hannaniah** (meaning *Beloved by the LORD*) was changed to **Shadrach** (meaning *Illumined by Sun-god*).

iii. The name **Mishael** (Mi shy el), (meaning *Who is as God*) was changed to **Meshach** (which may mean *Who is like Shach*, which some believe was a Babylonian goddess corresponding to Ishtar or Venus).

iv. The name **Azariah** (meaning *The LORD is my help*) was changed to **Abed-Nego** (meaning *Servant of Nego*).

Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego and Daniel- friends that went beyond just the physical and emotional level- **The walk of faith was key.**

**Scholars put Daniel between 15 and 18 years. Daniel 1:4 describe him and his friends as 'youths', from a Hebrew word which is often translated as 'young man'; definitely not a child, and definitely not mature. 13-20 ?**

How many of you have had or have a mentor of faith in your life?

**Ill.**- talking to a couple who mentioned a person that had been extremely influential in their lives.

## **INFLUENCE**

**Ill.** It's a Wonderful Life- George Bailey Great principle especially if you add in the Christian life.

- ✓ Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, **whose faith follow**, considering the outcome of *their* conduct.- Hebrews 13:7

**7 Remember your leaders *and* superiors in authority [for it was they] who brought to you the Word of God. Observe attentively *and* consider their manner of living (the outcome of their well-spent lives) and imitate their faith (their conviction that God exists and is the Creator and Ruler of all things, the Provider and Bestower of eternal salvation through Christ, and their leaning of the entire human personality on God in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness).** Amplified Bible-classic edition

- ✓ Imitate me, just as I also *imitate* Christ.- 1 Corinthians 11:1
- ✓ He who **walks** with wise *men* will be wise, **But** the companion of fools will be destroyed.- Proverbs 13:20

## **INFLUENCERS TODAY ARE POPULAR**

Influencers today- it's a business!

### **6 things you need to do to become an influencer:**

- Build a community around your niche and stay on brand
- Stand for something
- Create goals
- Network with other influencers
- Understand the difference between each social network and how they can work for you
- Be constantly learning and willing to use new platforms

Who is the #1 influencer in the world?

Cristiano Ronaldo is considered the world's top influencer, with over 1 billion followers across social media platforms:

- **Earnings**

Ronaldo is also the highest-paid influencer, earning \$3.23 million per post.

Nano Influencers	1k —10k	\$195
Micro Influencers	10k —100k	\$1,211
Macro Influencers	100k —1 Million	\$1,804
Mega Influencers/Celebrities	1 Million+	\$5,000+

**It may not be Renaldo- it may be YOU!**

## **Four Aspects of Living By Faith**

Daniel 1:1-8

### ➤ **1. FAITH involves a DECISION**

<sup>8</sup> But **Daniel purposed in his heart** that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. <sup>9</sup> Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs. <sup>10</sup> And the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, “I fear my lord the king, who has appointed your food and drink. For why should he see your faces looking worse than the young men who *are* your age? Then you would endanger my head before the king.” <sup>11</sup> So Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael (Mi shy el), and Azariah, <sup>12</sup> **“Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. <sup>13</sup> Then let our appearance be examined before you, and the appearance of the young men who eat the portion of the king’s delicacies; and as you see fit, so deal with your servants.” <sup>14</sup> So he consented with them in this matter, and tested them ten days.**

<sup>15</sup> And at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king’s delicacies. <sup>16</sup> Thus the steward took away their portion of delicacies and the wine that they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

<sup>17</sup> **As for these four young men,** God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

<p><b>Daniel and his friends considered the king’s food defiled for at least three reasons. First, it undoubtedly was not kosher. Second, it was probably sacrificed to idols. Third, eating the king’s food implied fellowship with Babylon’s cultural system.</b></p>
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Purposed to believe God’s way is the best way.

- Paying taxes and not cheating the government
- Living a life with God's view in mind
- God's rules and not my rules
- Bless those that curse you
- Being committed to your spouse for life
- Marriage and sex within the bounds of marriage

**<sup>9</sup> How can a young man cleanse his way?**

**By taking heed according to Your word.**

**<sup>10</sup> With my whole heart I have sought You;**

**Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!**

**<sup>11</sup> Your word I have hidden in my heart,**

**That I might not sin against You.**

**<sup>12</sup> Blessed *are* You, O Lord!**

**Teach me Your statutes.**

**<sup>13</sup> With my lips I have declared**

**All the judgments of Your mouth.**

**<sup>14</sup> I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies,**

**As *much as* in all riches.**

**<sup>15</sup> I will meditate on Your precepts,**

**And contemplate Your ways.**

**<sup>16</sup> I will delight myself in Your statutes;**

**I will not forget Your word.**

**“Be ready for a bad name; be willing to be called a bigot; be prepared for the loss of friendships; be prepared for anything so long as you can stand fast by Him who bought you with His precious blood.” (Spurgeon)**

2:20-23, 48-49

**<sup>20</sup> Daniel answered and said:**

**“Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,**

**For wisdom and might are His.**

**<sup>21</sup> And He changes the times and the seasons;**

**He removes kings and raises up kings;**

**He gives wisdom to the wise**

**And knowledge to those who have understanding.**

**<sup>22</sup> He reveals deep and secret things;**

**He knows what *is* in the darkness,**

**And light dwells with Him.**

<sup>23</sup> “I thank You and praise You,  
O God of my fathers;  
You have given me wisdom and might,  
And have now made known to me **what we asked** of You,  
For You have made known to us the king’s demand.”

Even now You have made known to me what we asked - These words of God's wise man are in striking contrast with the words of the pagan wise men in [Daniel 2:10](#) (“There is not a man on earth who could declare the matter for the king.” - It is interesting that four Hebrews had petitioned God but He spoke specifically only to Daniel, His man in Babylon! He had a mission for His man in Babylon! **But as Chapter 3 demonstrates, God would use Daniel's 3 prayer partners to teach one of the more profound lessons on faith in all the Bible! Each had their specific roles to play in God's great drama of redemption.**

**And the same can be said for your life dear saint. You may not have the exalted podium of Daniel, but if you are faithful, you can be assured that you will be fruitful, if not in this life, then certainly in the life to come! So hang in there. It's too soon to quit!**

<sup>48</sup> Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise *men* of Babylon. <sup>49</sup> Also Daniel petitioned the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego over the affairs of the province of Babylon; but Daniel *sat* in the gate of the king.

3:12, 16-30

## ➤ 2. Faith involves a DETERMINATION

<sup>16</sup> Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. <sup>17</sup> If that *is the case*, **our God whom we serve is able** to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver *us* from your hand, O king. <sup>18</sup> **But if not**, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.”

<sup>20</sup> And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who *were* in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, *and cast them* into the burning fiery furnace. <sup>21</sup> Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their *other* garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. <sup>22</sup> Therefore, because the king’s command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. <sup>23</sup> And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

<sup>24</sup> Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste *and* spoke, saying to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?”

They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.”

<sup>25</sup> “Look!” he answered, “I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.”

## **Watch out for the new concept of DECREERING AND DECLARING!**

In some circles, to “decree and declare” something is to powerfully speak it into existence. This phraseology has Pentecostal/Charismatic roots and is much like the “[positive confession](#)” teaching. Those involved in the “decree and declare” movement claim that if someone decrees or declares something, then it will happen. To “declare” is to state (out loud) a fact; to “decree” is to issue an authoritative command. [Kenneth Hagin](#), a leader in the [Word of Faith movement](#), writes, “You can have whatever you say. . . . You always get in your life what you believe for and what you say” (“You Can Have What you Say,”

The “decree and declare” movement claims to be biblical by using scriptural support. Since mankind is made in the image of God ([Genesis 1:27](#)), then, the thinking goes, we, like God, can speak and make things happen. God spoke things into existence ([Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 14, 20, 24, 26](#)), so those with faith can do the same. Those who follow the “decree and declare” formula make such statements as “I decree and declare that I will be healed from my sickness” or “I decree and declare my family will be healthy and well provided for.” Often, *asking* God for things in prayer is replaced by *decreeing* those things to happen.

It’s true that mankind is made in the image of God; however, the “decree and declare” proponents are wrong in the practical applications of that truth. Being made in the image of God does not mean that we have the same abilities that God has. Being made in the image of God means that “humans share, though imperfectly and finitely, in God’s nature, that is, in His communicable attributes (life, personality, truth, wisdom, love, holiness, justice), and so have the capacity for spiritual fellowship with Him” (Allen P. Ross, *Bible Knowledge Commentary: Genesis*, ed. by John Walvoord and Roy Zuck, David C. Cook, 1989, p. 29). Being made in the image of God means that we reflect God’s attributes, not that we can do the things that only God can, such as speak things into existence.

Someone who has been taught to “decree and declare” might say something like this before taking a road trip: “I decree and declare God’s blessings on this vehicle, that it will remain mechanically sound!” In saying that, the speaker may truly believe that his verbal declaration, coupled with God’s power and authority within him, will guarantee a trouble-free trip. The problem is, our statements can be *declarative*, but not *causative*, no matter how true they are; plus, when we go around “decreeing” things, we are in danger of putting our will over God’s will. Jesus taught us to pray that God’s will be done, and He led by example ([Luke 11:2; 22:42](#)).

Whether practitioners of the “decree and declare” formula realize it or not, the



ritualistic vocalizing of those words has similarities to magical incantations. According to the dictionary, an incantation is “a written or recited formula of words designed to produce a particular effect” (merriam-webster.com, accessed 3/31/20). The “decree and declare” teaching says that there is something special—something powerful—associated with our thoughts and words. We can think of something and “declare” it, and that in itself will change our circumstances and bring us blessings, including prosperity and healing. There’s nothing biblical about using certain words to manipulate events to bring something to pass. Instead of praying to the Lord for healing or other needs according to His will, followers of the Word of Faith movement are taught to repeat the “decree and declare” formula in the belief that their positivity will bring about positive results.

Instead of reciting formulaic declarations to obtain something, we should pray to the Lord in submission to His will ([Matthew 26:42](#)). Instead of seeking to force God’s hand by calling forth whatever we want, Christians should trust in the Heavenly Father who “knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!” ([Matthew 6:8, NLT](#)).

### ➤ **3. FAITH involves a DEMONSTRATION**

**Daniel is now likely 80 or 81 years old!**

6:10-28

6 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty satraps, to be over the whole kingdom; <sup>2</sup> and over these, three governors, of whom Daniel *was* one, that the satraps might give account to them, so that the king would suffer no loss. <sup>3</sup> Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit *was* in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm. <sup>4</sup> So the governors and satraps sought to find *some* charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he *was* faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him. <sup>5</sup> Then these men said, “We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find *it* against him concerning the law of his God.”

<sup>16</sup> So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast *him* into the den of lions. *But* the king spoke, saying to Daniel, “Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you.” <sup>17</sup> Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signets of his lords, that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed.

**<sup>21</sup> Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever! <sup>22</sup> My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you.”**

**23 Now the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God.**

**Jeff Steinberg**- no hands or arms- gimp legs 4' 6" tall

Now the champion he marched for 40 days  
Crying "Send me a man to fight"  
But the Israelite said 'I've got a great heart  
But my feet are full of fright"  
Then a boy with a sling and a pocket full of rocks  
He had to trust and pray  
Said, "If you gonna run, Goliath, you better go now  
I came here to stay"  
Run if you want to, run if you will  
But I came here to stay  
Now when I fall down I'm gonna try to get up  
Because I didn't start out to play  
It's a battlefield, brother, not a recreation room  
It's a fight and not a game  
Run if you want to, run if you will  
But I came here to stay

Now the decree had been signed by the hand of the king  
Daniel couldn't talk to his Lord  
Hungry lions were pacing him in  
Here comes supper again  
But if you'da been around anywhere close  
You'da heard brother Daniel say  
"If you're talking about me, you can forget it, boys  
I came here to stay"

Run if you want to, run if you will  
But I came here to stay

Now the boys wouldn't bow and the king got mad  
He said, "Turn that furnace up high  
Tie them up, let's throw them in  
These Hebrew boys are gonna fry"  
But a little while later he looked in the furnace  
And he heard brother Shadrach say  
"Pull up your chair, boys, and warm your hands  
'We came here to stay"

Run if you want to, run if you will



But I came here to stay  
Now when I fall down I'm gonna try to get up  
Because I didn't start out to play  
It's a battlefield, brother, not a recreation room  
It's a fight and not a game  
Run if you want to, run if you will  
But I came here to stay

**You enter into the difficult situation by faith!  
Not every situation comes out the way we think!**

**The fiery furnace- seven times hotter!**

**The lion's den**

**III. Big black bear**

**Having the eyes of faith leads to the act of faith.**

## ➤ 4. FAITH involves a DECLARATION

<sup>24</sup> And the king gave the command, and they brought those men who had accused Daniel, and they cast *them* into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives; and the lions overpowered them, and broke all their bones in pieces before they ever came to the bottom of the den. <sup>25</sup> Then King Darius wrote: To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you. <sup>26</sup> I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom *men must* tremble and fear before the God of Daniel.

For He *is* the living God, And steadfast forever;  
His kingdom *is the one* which shall not be destroyed,  
And His dominion *shall endure* to the end.

<sup>27</sup> He delivers and rescues,  
And He works signs and wonders  
In heaven and on earth,  
Who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

<sup>28</sup> So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Also look at 2:20-23, 46-49; 3:28-30

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- Build a community around your niche and stay on brand
- Stand for something
- Create goals
- Network with other influencers
- Understand the difference between each social network and how they can work for you
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**a DECISION** Purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself

**a DETERMINATION** God is able, but if not

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*<sup>33</sup> who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, **stopped the mouths of lions,** <sup>34</sup> quenched the violence of fire,*