

Truth Heist

Devotion, the Steel Rod of Faith

Pastor Carl Toti

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MAIN IDEA: Devotion is the steel rod of our faith. When your faith is tested, it is your devotion to Christ that will see you through any trial.

“I cry, I cry, and I cry again. The religion of Christ, the true faith, has fallen so low that it is an object of scorn not only to the Devil but to Jews and Muslims and pagans. . . . These keep their law as they believe it, but we, intoxicated with the love of the world, have deserted our law.”

—St. Gregory, 11th century

Daniel 1:3–6 (NKJV)

3 Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king’s descendants and some of the nobles, 4 young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king’s palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans. 5 And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king’s delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of that time they might serve before the king. 6 Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

Ezekiel 14:14 (NKJV)

14 Even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness,” says the Lord GOD.

“Verily there is that which is more contrary to Christianity, and to the very nature of Christianity, than any heresy and schism, more contrary than all heresies and all schisms combined, and that is to play Christianity.”

—Søren Kierkegaard, 19th century Danish theologian, and philosopher

DEVOTION: love, loyalty, or enthusiasm for a person, activity, or cause

Revelation 12:11 (NKJV)

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

(1) _____

1 Corinthians 10:14 (NKJV)

14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

Idolatry is the elevation of a preliminary concern to ultimacy. Something essentially finite is given infinite significance. The conflict between the finite and the infinite leads to a conflict of ultimates. —Paul Tillich's preferred definition of idolatry is found in *Systematic Theology* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1951), 1:16

“If man rejects God he will have to worship an idol.”
— Dostoevsky, *The Adolescent*

Our hearts are an idol factory.

“Every one of us is, even from his mother’s womb, expert in inventing idols.”
—John Calvin (1509-1564) French theologian, pastor and reformer

(2) _____
Daniel 1:5-7 (TLB)

5 The king assigned them the best of food and wine from his own kitchen during their three-year training period, planning to make them his counselors when they graduated. 6 Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were four of the young men chosen, all from the tribe of Judah. 7 However, their superintendent gave them Babylonian names, as follows: Daniel was called Belteshazzar; Hananiah was called Shadrach; Mishael was called Meshach; Azariah was called Abednego.

Genesis 1:26 (NKJV)

26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

“The likeness of God means the likeness of Him, compared with whom all else is like nothing.”
—Rabbi Heschel

(3) _____
Daniel 1:8 (NKJV)

8 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.

A **PURPOSEFUL** heart possesses three traits:
COMMITMENT, CONVICTION, & CONFIDENCE

“In essentials, unity; in non-essentials,
liberty; in all things, charity.”
— St. Augustine

ANSWERS:

- (1) IDOLATRY
- (2) IDENTITY
- (3) IMMORALITY