

## Strengthen Your Resolve

Resolve: to come to a definite or earnest decision about; determine (to do something)

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, <sup>12</sup>so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

### 1. Daniel resolved not to compromise his faith.

Daniel 1:8 But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.

- Our commitment to do the right thing will precede our actions of doing the right thing.

Daniel 1:15 At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food.

### 2. Jehoshaphat resolved to pray.

2 Chronicles 20:1-4 After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites came to make war on Jehoshaphat. <sup>2</sup>Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, "A vast army is coming against you from Edom, from the other side of the Sea. It is already in Hazazon Tamar" (that is, En Gedi). <sup>3</sup>Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the LORD, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah. <sup>4</sup>The people of Judah came together to seek help from the LORD; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him.

- Satan tries to distract us. To get our attention away from the One who gives us the victory. Jehoshaphat didn't hesitate. He immediately called Israel to pray.

Philippians 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

### 3. David resolved to guard his words.

Psalms 17:1-3 Hear, O LORD, my righteous plea; listen to my cry. Give ear to my prayer—it does not rise from deceitful lips. <sup>2</sup>May my vindication come from you; may your eyes see what is right. <sup>3</sup>Though you probe my heart and examine me at night, though you test me, you will find nothing; I have resolved that my mouth will not sin.

Matthew 12:34 For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.

- Whatever has taken root in our hearts will eventually show up in how we speak.

Proverbs 4:23-27 Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. <sup>24</sup>Put away perversity from your mouth; keep corrupt talk far from your lips. <sup>25</sup>Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you. <sup>26</sup>Make level paths for your feet and take only ways that are firm. <sup>27</sup>Do not swerve to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.

**4. Paul resolved to focus on Jesus Christ and Him crucified.**

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. <sup>2</sup>For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. <sup>4</sup>My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, <sup>5</sup>so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

Hebrews 12:1-2 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.