

Today, I Choose to Be an Influence for Good!

By Dr. David H. McKinley

"Success in life does not depend on the dreams we dream, but on the choices we make." —GEORGE SWEETING

"Lord, when I am wrong, make me willing to change; when I am right, make me easy to live with. So strengthen me that the power of my example will far exceed the authority of my rank." —PAULINE PETERS

Influence: The act or power of producing an effect without apparent exertion of force or direct exercise of command."

3D Summary of Daniel's Story

- Decline
- Decision

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 the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. DANIEL 1:8

- Destiny

I-M-P-A-C-T

INDIVIDUALITY

"To be *nobody-but-yourself* in a world which is doing its best, night and day, to make you *everybody-else* means to fight the hardest battle which any human being can fight, and never stop fighting."

—E.E. CUMMINGS

"No man ever yet became great by imitation." —SAMUEL JOHNSON

MANNERS

"You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you odd."

—FLANNERY O'CONNOR

Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and good will of the chief of the eunuchs. DANIEL 1:9

PRIORITIES

"The discipline to prioritize and the ability to work toward a stated goal are essential to a leader's success." —JOHN MAXWELL

3 Tests to Help Keep Edge-on-Life Priorities

- Evaluate
- Eliminate
- Estimate

ASSOCIATIONS

Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." 1 CORINTHIANS 15:33

CHARACTER

"Character is power." —BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

"As traditionally understood, from the Hebrews and Greeks onward, character is the inner form that makes anyone or anything what it is—whether a person, a wine, or a historical period. Thus character is clearly distinct from such concepts as personality, image, reputation, or celebrity. Applied to a person, it is the essential "stuff" he or she is made of, the inner reality in which thoughts, speech, decision, behavior, and relations are rooted. As such, a character determines behavior just as behavior demonstrates character. One's character, therefore, lies deeper than philosophies, allegiances, memberships, or accomplishments—even deeper than virtues. Just as a nation's constitution expresses its fundamental character and makeup, so a person's character expresses most deeply what constitutes him or her as a unique individual. Character, as rooted in the Greek word for the graphic symbol depicting a hallmark or other distinguishing sign, is the indelible stamp on a person beneath all masks, poses, disguises, and social veneers.

—O.S. GUINNESS, *When No one Sees*

"Try not to become a person of success, but rather a person of value."

—ALBERT EINSTEIN

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches. PROVERBS 22:1

"Distance tests a horses' strength. Time reveals a man's character."

—CHINESE PROVERB

TRUTH

My Influence: "My life shall touch a dozen lives before this day is done. Leave countless marks of good or ill, e're sets the evening sun. This, the wish I always wish, the prayer I always pray: Lord, may my life help others' lives it touches by the way."

