

[GUARDRAILS]

The Make Or Break Decisions

PERSONAL GUARDRAILS: a preventative measure that **PROTECTS** me from **FALLING OFF** a personal cliff.

¹² A prudent person foresees the danger ahead and takes precautions. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences.

Proverbs 27:12 (NLT)

Two Temptations:

1. "I hope **THEY** are listening."
2. "Guardrails are **NOT** my thing."

Two Truths:

1. Compromise doesn't **ELIMINATE** temptation; it only weakens **RESOLVE**.

¹⁴ Temptation comes from the lure of our own evil desires. ¹⁵ These evil desires lead to evil actions, and evil actions lead to death.

James 1:14-15 (NLT)

2. Guardrails are **BEST** where your appetites are most **MANAGEABLE**.

¹⁴ But let the Lord Jesus Christ take control of you, and don't think of ways to indulge your evil desires.

Romans 13:14 (NLT)

The Make Or Break Decisions From The Life Of Daniel:

¹ During the third year of King Jehoiakim's reign in Judah, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it with his armies....

³ Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, who was in charge of the palace officials, to bring to the palace some of the young men of Judah's royal family and other noble families, who had been brought to Babylon as captives. ⁴ "Select only strong, healthy, and good-looking young men..."

Daniel 1:1,3-4 (NLT)

⁹ But Daniel **made up his mind** not to defile himself by eating the food and wine given to them by the king.

Daniel 1:8 (NLT)

1. Daniel was committed to **HONOR GOD** first.

✓ Keep your **STANDARDS** high but your **GRACE** deep.

¹¹⁰ Wicked people have set a trap for me, but I have never wandered away from your guiding principles. ¹¹¹ Your written instructions are mine forever. They are the joy of my heart. ¹¹² **I have decided to obey your laws.** They offer a reward that never ends.

Psalms 119:110-112 (GW)

"Truth without grace is **mean**. Grace without truth is **meaningless**."

✓ Accept **PEOPLE** without **APPROVING** of their actions.

¹⁰ Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?" ¹¹ "No, Lord," she said. And Jesus said, "**Neither do I. Go and sin no more.**"

John 8:10-11 (NLT)

✓ Communicate **WISDOM** and **KINDNESS**.

¹⁴ When Arioch, the commander of the king's guard, came to kill them, **Daniel handled the situation with wisdom and discretion.**

Daniel 2:14 (NLT)

2. Daniel took deliberate **STEPS** and God **BLESSED** him.

¹⁴ He asked the chief official for permission to eat other things instead. ⁹ **Now God had given the chief official great respect for Daniel.**

Daniel 1:8-9 (NLT)

¹⁵ At the end of the ten days, Daniel and his three friends **looked healthier and better nourished** than the young men who had been eating the food assigned by the king.

Daniel 1:15 (NLT)

3. Daniel's decision **PROTECTED** him and God **DIRECTED** him.

Daniel 1:17-20 (NLT)

[GUARDRAILS]

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Two Temptations:

1. "I hope _____ are listening."
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✓ Communicate _____ and _____.

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