

# Faith In The Fire

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Faith works in the middle of the fire, not in the absence of it.

As an example, imagine, being a teenager and a War breaks out and you are taken captive 1,600 miles away from home. This happens to Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. The King of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar defeats Israel in Jerusalem and takes them to Babylon, 1,600 miles away. He then trains them for 3 years in the language, culture and customs of Babylon.

There are (4) realities of faith in the fire

### 1. Faith in the fire brings the favor of God

King Nebuchadnezzar has a dream and demands, Tell me the dream & the interpretation or you all die. Daniel then tells the King's Dream and Interprets it.

**Daniel 2:46-49** - Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honor and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him. The king said to Daniel, Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery. Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men. Moreover, at Daniel's request the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego administrators over the province of Babylon, while Daniel himself remained at the royal court.

They faithfully served the king and his kingdom. God gives great favor to Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego. Daniel used that Favor to bring righteous men into authority.

How does this apply during this crisis?

- Like Daniel, we use our authority in prayer to fight this battle.
- Like Daniel, God has brought great favor to Victory Family Church and we are using that favor to bless people.

### 2. Faith in the fire brings conflict

ROMANS 13:1-7, tells us:

- Submit to Government authority
- God has established Governmental Authority
- Governmental Authority exists to protect us from evil and punish the evil doer
- Police and Military are called Ministers of God
- Pay taxes to support that authority

When I rebel against that authority, I rebel against God.

However, when do you draw the line and no longer submit to the authority of Government?

- When you are commanded to disobey God
- We honor the Authority, but we do not worship it.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego are about to enter that conflict. This becomes a point of decision for them. Is it time to bow or time to burn? They are commanded to worship the image of gold.

**Daniel 3:5-6** - As soon as you hear the sound of the horn and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.

They refuse to bow, and King Nebuchadnezzar is furious.

**Daniel 3:14-15** – Nebuchadnezzar said to them, Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? Now when you hear the sounds of all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what God will be able to rescue you from my hand?

How does this apply to us during this crisis?

- We should yield to the Government in directives of public safety
- We should yield to God during this crisis in:
  - Is your God able to deliver you from the hand of this virus?
  - What are you thinking, saying, expecting?
  - Who are you helping?

3. Faith in the fire is immovable

**Daniel 3:16-23** - Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand. But if not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up. Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

How does this apply to us during this crisis?

- Faith works in the middle of the fire, not the absence of it.
- Is my Faith in God governing my expectations in the fire?
- Have I been taken captive by the circumstances?
- How much has the language, culture, customs, and circumstances of our world influenced my relationship with God and what I expect from Him?

#### 4. Faith in the fire makes an impact

Faith in God doesn't bow, break or burn.

**Daniel 3:24-30** - Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire? They replied, Certainly, O king. He said, Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like the son of God. Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here! So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire. Then Nebuchadnezzar said, Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued His servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. Therefore, I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way. Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

In Luke 19:13 it says to occupy until I return! We are called to be an “occupying army”, not a “kingdom of cowering slaves”! Go make an impact.

We are not in this alone. We need each other and we need to serve as much as being served.

What do you smell like?

**II Corinthians 2:14** - In the Messiah, in Christ, God leads us from place to place in one perpetual Victory parade. Through us, he brings the knowledge of Christ. Everywhere we go, people breathe in this exquisite fragrance.

The key word being **go** and make an impact.