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Pastor's Corner

The God of Faith is With You

Daniel 3:1-18

It is challenging getting through the most difficult times. Imagine if you were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego - the men who were thrown into the fiery furnace by king Nebuchadnezzar. A furnace heated up seven times hotter than you could ever imagine. It appeared that Nebuchadnezzar's powers as king had become the instrument of the enemy. God will allow the enemy to show us what he is working with, to show what he has. God will permit the enemy to test us. The enemy is not aware that this trial is a test for our growth and development if we would just continue to trust God in the midst of the trial.

It appeared that the three young men were preparing for worst. We all have been in situations where we knew nothing could be done and have faced moments when we believed all was lost. There have been times when the doctor's report was not what we had hoped. Our children have been in situations where we had no influence or power to change a thing. Imagine if you will Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego being at their wits end. They were told to worship the gold idol of the king and they refused. They did not go along with those who believed they were in charge, therefore, they had to die. They were the examples of what happens to those who did not worship the idol.

There are times when you stand for God and it will cost you. This was such a time for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They were not only thrown into the fiery furnace, but they were supposed to be entertainment. The king and his henchmen had gathered around to watch them burn. How often have so called gathered around and waited patiently for your demise? How often have you stood and those you opposed waited for your downfall? But when the king and his henchmen looked into the furnace, they saw some things they did not expect to see. They saw an additional person, an angel, walking around with the three Hebrew men. They saw that even though the fire was seven times

hotter, the men were not burned. The hair on their heads weren't singed; their clothes not burned. There was no smell of fire on them *at all*.

When God rescues you, He rescues you ALL the way. He rescues you in such a way that people don't even believe you were in the fire. When God shows up and takes charge of the surgery, there will be those who will not believe you were fighting for your life. These young men did not lose faith. They did not doubt the power or the movement of God in their situation. And like these men, we cannot lose faith in our moments of difficulty. These young men had a response for the king, when he asked "who was this God who will come and rescue you from my power?" Abednego shouted out "we do not need to give you a reply concerning this. This God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power. And if He does not, we will not serve your gods or worship the gold statue."

These young men stood the test. These men not only stood the test but passed it. It is indeed difficult to give God glory in times of difficulty. It is difficult to give God praise in the midst of storms. But if it were easy everyone would do it. God wants us to continue in our faith in the storm, when climbing up the rough side of the mountain, when crossing the turbulent rivers, or walking in the dark of night. The words He gave to his disciples still remains a promise to us: "and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of age."

God Bless and remain Safe,

Pastor Gool