

Aveleigh Year of The Bible, OCT. 14 2018,
Sermon Series: FAITH UNSHAKABLE!— Part 6 of 10
Autumn Weekly Reflections On Daniel's Life & Book Text: Daniel 3: p. 949
DANIEL'S FRIENDS ARE TESTED: WHAT WILL YOU DO WHEN THE HEAT IS ON

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: For those who have not been welcomed before,

People: You are welcomed by Christ here.

Leader: For those who have been turned away,

People: Christ is opening the door for you.

Leader: For those who have been forgotten,

People: God cannot forget you, for God made you.

Leader: Come, join together in worship of our God.

People: You are God's beloved. We welcome each other in the name of Christ. Amen.

Prayer of confession

Holy and loving God, anger is often our weak spot. It fuels our resentments. It prevents us from letting go. It feeds our self-righteousness. We cling to anger as if it could save us, hoping it will protect us from pain and loss. But, it is all folly. Salvation is in trusting you to make all things right. Hope is found in keeping our eyes on you and on what you have done for us, rather than on others and how they have let us down. Forgive our short-sighted and self-inflicted foolishness, Lord. Restore us in love and grace to trust you in all things.

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FIRST# DANIEL Chap. 3 REVENENT TO US TODAY ?

"The king made a giant gold image of himself to be worshiped"

1. **Our cultural creates** _____
See Daniel 3:1-7
2. **I'm tempted to create** _____
3. **If I reject cultural idols,** _____
See Daniel 3:8-12
4. **Doing the right thing always** _____
See Daniel 3:13-15

SECOND #WHAT SHOULD YOU DO WHEN THE HEAT IS ON?

1. Don't worry about defending myself. *"Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, 'O Nebuchadnezzar, we don't need to defend ourselves in this matter'"* Daniel 3:16

2. Remember that God has the power to save me. *"IF we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we worship is ABLE to save us."* Daniel 3:17a

3. Believe God will save me. *"And HE WILL save us from your power, O king."* Daniel 3:17b

"WHEN you go through deep waters and great trouble, I will be with you. WHEN you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown! WHEN you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you! For I am the Lord, your God!"
Isaiah 43:2-3a (NLT)

4. So announce your loyalty to God no matter what. *"BUT EVEN IF God DOESN'T save us, we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you set up."* Daniel 3:18

CONCLUSION: WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I TRUST GOD IN THE FURNACE?

1. GOD WILL WALK THROUGH THE FIRE WITH YOU. *Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in amazement and asked his advisers, 'Didn't we tie up three men and throw them into the furnace?' 'Yes, we did.' they said, 'Well look now!' he shouted. 'You see four men now, unbound, walking around freely in the fire, unharmed! And the fourth man looks like a son of the gods!'"* Daniel 3:24-25

2. GOD WILL BURN OFF EVERYTHING TYING ME DOWN & YOU'LL GAIN NEW FREEDOM NEW FREEDOM. *"I have refined you but not in the way silver is refined. Rather, I have refined you in the furnace of suffering."* Isaiah 48:10 (NLT)

"You let captors set foot on our neck; then we went through fire and water and you led us out to freedom." Psalm 66:12 (NAB)

3. GOD WILL MAKE SURE YOU COME OUT UNHARMED. *"Then Nebuchadnezzar came as close as he could to the door of the flaming furnace and shouted: 'Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come out at once!' So the 3 men stepped out of the fire. Then the princes, prefects, governors, and advisers crowded around them and saw that the fire had not touched them. Not a hair on their heads was singed, and their clothing was not scorched. They didn't even smell of smoke!"*
Daniel 3:26-27

4.FOR ALL TO SEE YOUR FAITH UNSHAKABLE *"Then the king said, "Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego who sent his angel to rescue his servants. THEY TRUSTED IN HIM. They defied my command and were willing to die rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. Therefore, I make this decree: If anyone says anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, they will be put to death, and their houses will be destroyed. There is no other god who can save anyone like this!" Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to even higher positions in the province of Babylon."*
Daniel 3:29-30

PRAYER: Father In Heaven, When the heat is on help me to have faith unshakable. Amen.

FOR THE ROAD AHEAD: "I have refined you but not in the way silver is refined. Rather, I have refined you in the furnace of suffering." *Isaiah 48:10 (NLT)*

1. *Since God is more concerned about our character than our comfort, we sometimes find ourselves in the furnace of suffering. Share a time when your character was tested by suffering. What has you tied up in the furnace? What part of your character could God be building through this?*

"Then the king said, "Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego who sent his angel to rescue his servants. They trusted in him. They defied my command and were willing to die rather than serve or worship any god except their own God." Daniel 3:28

2. *Who or what would you be willing to die for? If you were asked to choose between your life and the approval of others, which would you choose and why? When have you been forced to make the unpleasant choice of doing what is right before God or conforming to social pressure? How do you feel now about your choice?*

"Each of us must be careful how we build (our lives), because Christ is the only solid foundation. Whatever we build on that foundation will be tested by fire . . . If what we built is left standing, we will be rewarded! But if what we've built is burned up by the fire, we will lose our reward. Yet we will be saved, like someone escaping from flames."
1 Corinthians 3:10b-15

3. *What steps are you taking to build a life on a foundation that can be tested by fire? What direction should you take now to make sure you will collect your rewards in heaven?*