

3 STEPS TO FIREPROOF YOUR LIFE

If You Don't Bow You Won't Burn

Ben Hoffmaster | 05.17.26

INTRODUCTION

THE PRESSURE. The weight. The pull. The constant push to compromise.

That is what it can feel like when the world is trying to shape us as believers into becoming something God never called us to be. We have all felt it before, the tension between what we know is right and the pressure to compromise. We feel the heat as the enemy keeps turning up the fire through temptation, trials, fear, and opposition, trying to reshape our convictions, redefine God's truth, and convince Christians to bow their knees to the world.

Sometimes the pressure is massive, tempting us to make choices that could alter our lives forever. Other times it is subtle, like failing to represent Christ at home, losing our temper over something small, or staying silent in public when you had the opportunity to stand for truth. Can anyone relate to the **PRESSURE**?

But here is the good news: when your life is built on faith in Jesus Christ, conviction in God's Word, and confidence in your covenant with Him, the fires of life may surround you, but they do not have to consume you.

Some people are destroyed by pressure, while others are developed by it. Some run from the fire, while others run to it and come out stronger, purer, and more grounded in their faith.

The enemy wants the fire to consume you, but God wants to use the fire to refine you.

That is what we are talking about today. We are going to uncover three steps from Daniel chapter 3 through the account of a fiery furnace, a worldly king, three uncompromising men of God, and the presence of God Himself, and how those steps can produce a life that is completely fireproof.

And here is the truth I want you to leave with today: The fire may touch you, but it does not have to consume you.

SAY THIS BOLDLY: If I don't bow, I won't burn.

SAY IT AGAIN BOLDLY: If I don't bow, I won't burn.

NOW SAY IT TO THE PERSON BESIDE YOU: If you don't bow, you won't burn.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I come in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, Your only begotten Son. I ask that today that You would work through me, I ask that by Your mighty power, that everyone under the sound of my voice would be supernaturally set free from the power of the devil. And now devil, I command you and any of your evil forces to be gone from the people in this room and online, every mind blinding spirit that would try to keep people from hearing Your Word today, be gone from them in the mighty name of Jesus. Get your hands off of God's property. Father, You are the only One who can change our hearts, I pray that as the seed of the Word is planted today, that a harvest of freedom would take place in our hearts and lives, in the mighty name of Jesus. And all God's people said, AMEN!

BACKSTORY

A fiery furnace, a worldly king, three uncompromising men of God, and the presence of God Himself. This is the premise of what we will read in Daniel chapter 3, a king who

desired to be worshiped like a god, who gave three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego a choice to either bow in worship to him or burn in his fiery furnace, but because of their unwavering faith, God Himself saved them unscathed by the flames. But before we dive into reading God's Word, let's set up the backdrop.

Israel, one of the greatest kingdoms on earth, by the hand of God, and through His servant King David, then followed by world renowned God-given wisdom from David's son Solomon, that people and leaders would travel distances just to listen. This great city that was once filled with the dancing and joy of God's presence and victory, is now brought low and humbled by King Nebuchadnezzar who has besieged the walls of Jerusalem, taken away the treasures of God's temple, and exiled the pride and joy of their nation, young promising leaders like Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

But how did this happen? How did this once strong nation become so low?

It is not because God was too weak and Nebuchadnezzar so strong, but Israel was brought low, by the same thing that brings all humanity low, sin and idolatry! When they began to turn their hearts away from God, and start living for other gods, and become all about their own desires, God allowed them to face the consequences of their actions.

But just because a nation is facing the consequences of disobedience, does not mean God has abandoned the individuals that stay faithful to Him.

SAY THIS BOLDLY: If I don't bow, I won't burn.

Now let's dive into Daniel chapter 3

***Daniel 3:1-12 NLT** King Nebuchadnezzar made a gold statue ninety feet tall and nine feet wide and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. 2 Then he sent messages to the high officers, officials, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates, and all the provincial officials to come to the dedication of the statue he had set up. 3 So all these officials came and stood before the statue King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. 4 Then a herald shouted out, "People of all races and nations and languages, listen to the king's command! 5 When you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes, and other musical instruments, bow to the ground to worship King Nebuchadnezzar's gold statue. 6 Anyone who refuses to obey*

will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.” 7 So at the sound of the musical instruments, all the people, whatever their race or nation or language, bowed to the ground and worshiped the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. 8 But some of the astrologers went to the king and informed on the Jews. 9 They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “Long live the king! 10 You issued a decree requiring all the people to bow down and worship the gold statue when they hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes, and other musical instruments. 11 That decree also states that those who refuse to obey must be thrown into a blazing furnace. 12 But there are some Jews—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—whom you have put in charge of the province of Babylon. They pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They refuse to serve your gods and do not worship the gold statue you have set up.”

If you want to fire proof your life step number 1 is...

STEP 1. Have a strong **CONVICTION** to follow and worship the one and only true God.

What is **CONVICTION**?

According to [dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com) a **CONVICTION** is "*A fixed or strong belief*"

People with strong convictions are driven by deeply rooted, unshakable beliefs, providing them with immense resilience, high-level confidence, and purpose, when they face opposition to those **CONVICTIONS**.

Simply put, **CONVICTIONS** are beliefs that are so deeply rooted in your being that they determine, not just your opinions, they determine your actions.

What are some examples of convictions?

- Some people are border line religious about NOT putting pineapple on pizza. Even if it your preference, they'll rebuke you for it.
- There are dads who believe the thermostat should NEVER be touched.
- Many Grandparents, won't let you leave their house until you have had a second plate.

- There are people who feel very strongly about NOT clapping when the plan lands or the movie ends.
- And don't you dare say it is my birthday at a restaurant.

We laugh about little convictions, but convictions are what keep you standing when the fire of life heats up.

- **The Conviction of Integrity** compels a person to live right regardless of personal cost.
 - Esther who risked her life to stand before the king to save her people from annihilation.
 - The prophet Samuel in *1 Samuel 12:3 NLT* *Now testify against me in the presence of the Lord and before his anointed one. Whose ox or donkey have I stolen? Have I ever cheated any of you? Have I ever oppressed you? Have I ever taken a bribe and perverted justice? Tell me and I will make right whatever I have done wrong.*"
- **The Conviction of Purity** causes a young person to choose holiness and healthy boundaries in relationships despite cultural pressure. Like Joseph running from Potiphar's wife in *Genesis 39:12*
- **The Conviction of Putting God First** causes a believer to stay committed to church, prayer, and God's Word even when emotions fade or life gets busy. Or when others are telling you not to talk about Jesus, like the disciples that said in *Acts 5:29 NLT* *We must obey God rather than any human authority.*

People who make these kinds of decisions don't have preferences, they have **CONVICTIONS**. There is no price you could pay them that would cause them to make any other choice. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had a strong **CONVICTION** to follow and worship the one and only true God.

But here is the thing about **CONVICTIONS**, they are not a one time choice, these three men had a history of choosing God.

- **DANIEL 1:** When they were being served food from the king's table that would have gone against their God-given instructions on diet, they followed Daniel's example and choose God over man.

Daniel 1:8, 11 NLT But Daniel was determined not to defile himself by eating the food and wine given to them by the king. He asked the chief of staff for permission not to eat these unacceptable foods. ... 11 Daniel spoke with the attendant who had been appointed by the chief of staff to look after Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

- **DANIEL 2:** When the king ordered all the wise men to be killed because none of them could reveal and interpret his dream, Daniel and his three friends didn't panic or run for their lives. Instead, they turned to God in prayer, fully depending on His wisdom.

Daniel 2:13-18 NLT And because of the king's decree, men were sent to find and kill Daniel and his friends. 14 When Arioch, the commander of the king's guard, came to kill them, Daniel handled the situation with wisdom and discretion. 15 He asked Arioch, "Why has the king issued such a harsh decree?" So Arioch told him all that had happened. 16 Daniel went at once to see the king and requested more time to tell the king what the dream meant. 17 Then Daniel went home and told his friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah what had happened. 18 He urged them to ask the God of heaven to show them his mercy by telling them the secret, so they would not be executed along with the other wise men of Babylon.

Now in **DANIEL 3**, it is believed that Daniel is ruling in another section of Babylon when the king calls all to worship the gold statue, but Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego with a history of following their **CONVICTIONS** make the same decision again to worship the one and only true God.

So how do you know if you have this **CONVICTION**?

- **Are you willing to stand alone and obey God even when it is unpopular?**

- **Do your standards change based on your environment?**
- **Do you choose truth over feelings?**
- **Do you say no to temptation?**
- **Are you are guided by Scripture, instead of culture?**

Here is the truth, sticking to your God-given **CONVICTIONS** will produce life after the initial pain of choosing right, regardless of the cost. **COMPROMISE** will always produce death after the promise of gratification is complete. Think about the whole pizza you ate, it was amazing going down, but the pain after made you question life.

Now let's read on...

***Daniel 3:12-23 NLT** But there are some Jews—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—whom you have put in charge of the province of Babylon. They pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They refuse to serve your gods and do not worship the gold statue you have set up.” 13 Then Nebuchadnezzar flew into a rage and ordered that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought before him. When they were brought in, 14 Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you refuse to serve my gods or to worship the gold statue I have set up? 15 I will give you one more chance to bow down and worship the statue I have made when you hear the sound of the musical instruments. But if you refuse, you will be thrown immediately into the blazing furnace. And then what god will be able to rescue you from my power?” 16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. 17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. 18 But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up.” 19 Nebuchadnezzar was so furious with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face became distorted with rage. He commanded that the furnace be heated seven times hotter than usual. 20 Then he ordered some of the strongest men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. 21 So they tied them up and threw them into the furnace, fully dressed in their pants, turbans, robes, and other garments. 22 And because the king, in his anger, had*

demanded such a hot fire in the furnace, the flames killed the soldiers as they threw the three men in. 23 So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, securely tied, fell into the roaring flames.

So the first step is they had a strong **CONVICTION** to follow and worship the one and only true God.

STEP 2. Be willing to be **CONDEMNED** by the world.

Because of their **CONVICTIONS**, they were willing to face any and all consequences, even being **CONDEMNED** to death. We see many other great examples of people in the Bible who were willing to suffer as well. Look at **Hebrews 11**

- Moses

***Hebrews 11:24-26 NLT** It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. 25 He chose to share the oppression of God's people instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin. 26 He thought it was better to suffer for the sake of Christ than to own the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to his great reward.*

- Others Unnamed

***Hebrews 11:35-39 NLT** But others were tortured, refusing to turn from God in order to be set free. They placed their hope in a better life after the resurrection. 36 Some were jeered at, and their backs were cut open with whips. Others were chained in prisons. 37 Some died by stoning, some were sawed in half, and others were killed with the sword. Some went about wearing skins of sheep and goats, destitute and oppressed and mistreated. 38 They were too good for this world, wandering over deserts and mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground. 39 All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised.*

The devil is against those who trust in God, he is out to destroy their life, and as followers of Christ, we must always be willing to go through the threat of any fiery furnace regardless of the outcome.

Oral Roberts: The Fourth Man Message. *“These young men (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego) came face-to-face with one of life's inescapable facts...a man who is living for God will be hated by the devil, his religion will be tried”*

I believe many times as followers of Christ we have the wrong perspective or view of God and what He is going to do in our lives. It can be so easy especially in a Western Mindset to think God is going to rescue us from every problem, and we never have to go through anything. But according to the Bible, that is not accurate and can cause us as Christians to be disillusioned when God doesn't do what we think He will do the way we think He will do it. We may and more than likely still go through the fire. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were not serving God because of what God could do for them, they were serving God because of their relationship with Him and simply because, He is God. Look back at what said,

***Daniel 3:17-18 NLT** If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. 18 But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.”*

It has well been said that faith is not believing in spite of evidence-that's superstition-but obeying in spite of consequences. When they had to choose between God's Word and the king's food, they chose the Word of God. *The Bible Exposition Commentary: Old Testament - The Prophets Isaiah - Malachi Warren W. Wiersbe Pg 254*

Here is a modern day example. Look at Charlie Kirk, by his own admittance, he knew the dangers, he knew they may try to kill him or hurt him, but regardless he still spoke truth and the message of Jesus Christ at colleges around the country. He was willing to be **CONDEMNED** because of his **CONVICTION** to follow God.

SIDE NOTE: In other religious belief systems other's die for their god's approval, these people in the Bible and other's who followed Jesus throughout history died because of God's approval.

But why? How? If they had this **CONVICTION** to follow God and they are willing to **CONDEMNED**, why and how did they do it?

STEP 3. We must know we have a **COVENANT** with God.

In the Bible, a **COVENANT** is a sacred, binding agreement between God and humanity (or individuals), establishing a relational partnership rather than a mere contract. They are...

- **Relational over Transactional:** It is more than just an exchange of money or property, it creates a kinship-like bond or a new family relationship that cannot be broken.
- **Life-and-Death Commitment:** Covenants are serious commitments, often ratified through sacrifices, symbolizing that God would sooner destroy Himself than fail in His promises.

Hebrews 6:16-17 NLT Now when people take an oath, they call on someone greater than themselves to hold them to it. And without any question that oath is binding.
17 God also bound himself with an oath, so that those who received the promise could be perfectly sure that he would never change his mind.

Psalms 89:34 NLT No, I will not break my covenant; I will not take back a single word I said.

Malachi 3:6 NLT I am the Lord, and I do not change. That is why you descendants of Jacob are not already destroyed.

Major Biblical Covenants

1. **Noahic Covenant:** God promises to not destroy the earth again with a flood
Genesis 9
2. **Abrahamic Covenant:** God promises Abraham land, descendants, and blessing to all nations *Genesis 12, 15, 17*

3. Mosaic (Sinai) Covenant: God gives the Law to Israel, establishing them as a holy nation *Exodus 19-24 & Deuteronomy 28*

4. Davidic Covenant: God promises that a descendant of David will sit on the throne forever *2 Samuel 7*

They were willing to trust God even unto death, because they knew they had a **COVENANT** with Him, and they were not afraid to vocalize it. They knew God would never leave them.

Daniel 3:16-18 NLT 16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. 18 But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."

How did they know that God could and would deliver them, they knew they had a **COVENANT** with God. They knew they would have to go through the trial, but regardless of whether they lived or died, they wouldn't be going through it alone.

Hebrews 13:5 NLT Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you."

Even when all the rest of the nation abandoned their **CONVICTIONS**, they didn't, these three guys were willing to be **CONDEMNED**, because they knew they were descendants of Abraham, they knew they still had a **COVENANT** with God. Because of all of this

POINT 4. They were able to walk **COMPLETE** in their faith.

Daniel 3:24-30 NLT But suddenly, Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in amazement and exclaimed to his advisers, "Didn't we tie up three men and throw them into the furnace?" "Yes, Your Majesty, we certainly did," they replied. 25 "Look!" Nebuchadnezzar shouted. "I see four men, unbound, walking around in the fire unharmed! And the fourth looks like a god!" 26 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 here!" So

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stepped out of the fire. 27 Then the high officers, officials, 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! 28 Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He sent his angel to rescue his servants who trusted in him. They defied the king's command and were willing to die rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. 29 Therefore, I make this decree: If any people, whatever their race or nation or language, speak a word against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, they will be torn limb from limb, and their houses will be turned into heaps of rubble. There is no other god who can rescue like this!" 30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to even higher positions in the province of Babylon.

Their faith was brought to **COMPLETION** because they needed no assurance in the 5 sense realm before they acted on their **CONVICTION**. Your faith is **COMPLETE** when you don't need anything but your faith in God. Your faith is complete when you act, instead of depending on your 5 physical senses.

From Dr. John's Faith School, *"Do what you could not do before."*

CONCLUSION

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stuck true to their **CONVICTIONS**, were willing to be **CONDEMNED**, they put a demand on the **COVENANT** they had with God and the Fourth Man showed up in that fire with them. Who is that Fourth Man, He is the pre-incarnate Son of God, Jesus Christ. How do we know He will show up in our fiery trials, because as the famous message by Oral Roberts, points out that there is a weaving thread throughout the whole Bible revealing Jesus is present, able, and willing to help you in every fiery furnace of life.

- In **Genesis** He is the seed of the woman
- **Exodus** the Passover Lamb
- **Leviticus** our High Priest
- **Numbers** the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night
- **Deuteronomy** the Prophet like unto Moses
- **Joshua** the Captain of our Salvation
- **Judges** our Judge and Lawgiver
- **Ruth** our Kinsman Redeemer

- **1 & 2 Samuel** our Trusted Prophet
- **1 & 2 Kings and Chronicles** our Reigning King
- **Ezra** our Faithful Scribe
- **Nehemiah** the Rebuilder of the broken down walls of human life
- **Esther** our Mordecai
- **Job** our Ever Living Redeemer
- **Psalms** He's the Lord our Shepherd
- **Proverbs and Ecclesiastes** He is our Wisdom
- **Song of Solomon** He's the lover and the bridegroom
- **Isaiah** the Prince of Peace
- **Jeremiah** the Righteous Branch
- **Lamentations** the Weeping Prophet
- **Ezekiel** the Wonderful Four-Faced Man
- **Daniel** the Fourth Man in the burning fiery furnace
- **Hosea** He's the Faithful Husband forever married to the backslider
- **Joel** the Baptizer with the Holy Ghost and fire
- **Amos** our Burden Bearer
- **Obediah** the Mighty to Save
- **Jonah** our great foreign Missionary
- **Micah** the Messenger of beautiful feet
- **Nahum** the Avenger of God's elect
- **Habakkuk** God's Evangelist
- **Zephaniah** He is the Savior
- **Haggai** the Restorer of God's lost heritage
- **Zechariah** fountain opened up in the house of David
- **Malachi** the Son of righteousness rising with healing in His wings
- **Matthew** He's the Messiah
- **Mark** the Wonder Worker
- **Luke** the Son of Man
- **John** the Son of God
- **Acts** the Holy Ghost
- **Romans** our Justifier
- **1 & 2 Corinthians** our Sanctifier
- **Galatians** He is a Redeemer from the curse of the law
- **Ephesians** the Christ with unsearchable riches
- **Philippians** that God supplies all our needs
- **Colossians** the fullness of the Godhead bodily
- **1 & 2 Thessalonians** He is our soon coming King
- **1 & 2 Timothy** our Mediator between God and man
- **Titus** our faithful Pastor
- **Philemon** a Friend the sticketh closer than a brother

- **Hebrews** the Blood of the everlasting covenant
 - **James** the Great Physician
 - **1 & 2 Peter** the Chief Shepherd
 - **1, 2 & 3 John** He is love
 - **Jude** the Lord coming with ten thousands of his Saints
 - **Revelation** the King of kings and Lord of lords
- CONTINUED**
- He's Able's sacrifice
 - Noah's rainbow
 - Abraham's RAM
 - Isaac's Well
 - Moses' rod
 - Elijah's mantle
 - Elisha's staff
 - Gideon's fleece
 - David's slingshot
 - Peter's shadow
 - Paul's handkerchiefs
 - He's a husband to the widow
 - A father to the orphan
 - He is the pearl of great price
 - He is the everlasting father
 - Who is this fourth man, He is Jesus of Nazareth the Son of the Living God

Do

you want to Fireproof your life? Do you need God to show up in the middle of your fiery trials? He can and He will. Here is even better news, we are no longer under the Old Covenant, where it was sealed with the sacrifice of the blood of bulls and sheep. We are under the New Covenant, that is sealed by the blood of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

The first thing we need to do is give you the opportunity to receive this free gift of salvation through this New Covenant. Here is the premise, because of the sin of the first man Adam, we are all born with the nature of sin and because it is our nature, we can do nothing about it.

But Jesus, that Fourth Man, with His own blood paid the penalty of death that our sin deserved, now giving us the opportunity to be restored back to God in full relationship with Him.

If you are under the sound of my voice in here or online and you know you need what only Jesus can provide, I invite you to pray this prayer with me.

SALVATION PRAYER

3 ACTION STEPS TO FIREPROOF YOUR LIFE

1. Identify where you have been tempted to bow: You cannot stand against compromise if you refuse to acknowledge it.
2. Decide your **CONVICTIONS** before the fire comes: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not wait until they were standing in front of the furnace to decide what they believed. They had already settled it in their hearts.
3. Trust God in the fire: Come to prayer, Connect Group, surround yourself with others who can help you along the way.