

## **“Faith Under Fire”**

Daniel 3:1-30

In recent years, we've sensed that the prevailing winds of our culture no longer are at the backs of Bible believing Christians. Instead, the wind seems to have been in favor of secularism. Public opinion has been against those who hold to biblical Christianity. We've found ourselves in the minority rather than the majority. We are outsiders, even caricatured as extremists by those in Hollywood and the mainstream media. We may feel like strangers in a foreign place. But that's good, because that is what we are. While we may be outnumbered, we won't compromise our faith.

I was driving up the road the other day and happened to be flipping through the radio stations, and there was a song that got my attention. It was a song by Tom Petty. He died some years ago, but not before making a big impact on the music industry. He was one of the best-selling artists of all time, having sold more than 80 million records worldwide. What you may not know is that he was so committed to his views on artistic control that he filed for bankruptcy before he would ever allow a music label to transfer his music to another label without his consent. In 1987, an arsonist burned down his house while he was in it with his family. They barely escaped and spent the next several months in hotel rooms and a rented house, but Tom Petty was badly shaken.

It was during this time that he came up with this song, it is one of his most well-known songs, and the fire was a huge influence. The song was a way of reclaiming his life and getting past the struggle. Here's what he wrote, in what are now very familiar lyrics:

*Well, I won't back down*

*No I won't back down*  
*You could stand me up at the gates of Hell*  
*But I won't back down*

Now, that's an appropriate thought, especially as we come to the third chapter of Daniel. What do you do with a man or a woman who simply refuses to bow down to the world's agenda? How do you extinguish the hope of someone who understands that all their treasure is in heaven? The short answer is that you can't. They 'go against the grain.' That is what we find in Daniel 3. Within this chapter we read a story that is familiar to most of us, especially if you grew up going to Sunday School. It is the story of the three Hebrew children and the fiery furnace and their refusal to bow down to a wicked king's idolatrous image. The story begins with King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon who has this massive golden image set up on the plain of Dura. He issues an order to all of his government officials, requiring them to be at a dedication ceremony where they must 'bow down' to the image in a show of unity and solidarity. Those who refuse to bow down when prompted to are told that they'd be cast into a furnace of fire. Rather than bowing down to the cultural pressure to conform to a king's desire, the Bible says Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse. (Read)

Throughout the ages, faithful believers have turned to this text in order to find encouragement when faced with their own fiery furnaces in life. But the story does so much more than to simply hold up these three Hebrews as examples. It directs us to the glory of God as One who stands with His own in life's fiery furnaces. He is the God who delivers His people, and He is worthy of worship regardless of whether or not temporary deliverance comes in our situations. One of the key questions that ought to come into our minds as we read this story is this—"When faced with the threat of the furnace, will you and I remain confident

in God's Word no matter what the outcome may be?" Three things are important to remember when our faith is under fire. First of all, we must be:

### **1—FOCUSED on the Lord, not distracted by the world's images (3:1-7)**

*"King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon."*

Most Bible scholars agree that the events of chapter 3 are more than a decade removed from the events of chapter 2. In the Septuagint, verse 1 begins by saying it was in the eighteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar. If you go back to the verse 1 of chapter 2, it says that his dream happened in the second year of his reign. And so 16 years have passed between chapters 2 and three.

Perhaps after having put down an attempt that challenged his authority, he has a statue of gold constructed to remind those in his kingdom of his self-importance. Again, keep in mind the image in his dream back up in chapter 2. Daniel had revealed to Nebuchadnezzar that he was the head of gold. The God of heaven had given to him the kingdom, the power, the might, and the glory. In fact, he would rule over a vast eastern empire for 43 years. He had subdued peoples, conquered lands, and experienced success after success. World power was in his hands. He must have thought to himself, "Wouldn't it be nice if more of that statue were gold rather than just the head? Who says my empire has to fall to another?" Perhaps he resented the thought that his kingdom would go to another. His power and success fueled his pride. After all, many years have passed. Things are going good for him. He has not grown weaker, but has since grown stronger. And after waiting for this dream to be fulfilled, he makes an image of gold and 'sets it up' (used 9 times; repetitive). Don't you think he is

trying to make a statement? He is, in effect, saying, “I am invincible. I’m going to make an image whose head is not of gold, but the entire thing is made out of gold.”

This is important because so often we think, “Well, just give this problem some time. Just give that person some time and time will soften them up. Time heals all wounds.” And sometimes that’s true, but not always. Sometimes as time wears on, a person’s heart isn’t softened, but is hardened. Things can get worse for them rather than better.

**Hebrews 2:1 — “Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.”**

We have a tendency to drift away from the truth over time, so that we’re not affected by it. There may be some truths you heard as a child, and they meant something to you, or they made an impact on you, but not so much now. You’ve drifted away as Nebuchadnezzar did from a very ominous revelation that once rocked his world, but now he is not as affected by it. He sets up an image in defiance.

The whole idea of this statue is, is him showing himself off. Now, in the next chapter we get another glimpse of this. In chapter 4, he walks through Babylon and will declare as he looks around, “Is not this the great Babylon that I have built by my majesty and for my glory?” Of course, God will have a message to give to him of how that is not the case.

The sheer size of the image was intended to impress all who saw it. Verse 1 says that it was 60 cubits high and 6 cubits wide. Modern measurements place it at 90 feet high and 9 feet wide, perhaps on a wider base pedestal at the bottom. The king determined to build a gigantic monument of himself and use it to unite

his empire. The image is the embodiment of his power and agenda. His motive was to command the worship of the people. The word 'worship' is found 11 times in chapter 3. The king is determined to see to it that his golden kingdom has no rivals. He issues an order to all of his government officials, requiring them to be at a dedication ceremony where they must 'bow down' to the image in a massive display of unity. Notice that the list included:

- satraps—administrators and chief representatives
- prefects—commanders or military chiefs
- governors—those who presided over civil affairs
- counselors—legal representatives
- treasurers—those in the financial department
- justices—guardians of the law
- magistrates—local judges

The idea is that he's doing his best to unite his kingdom culturally, politically, and even religiously. He decided the way to unify his empire was to bring it together under one common image. After having summoning his officials, the king demanded that they bow down to the gold image in a show of submission and solidarity. He has his 'herald' or cryer issue the command to the crowd. All the world's false gods have their pulpiteers, and the king has his spokesman who is paid to influence the people. Notice how sweeping his decree is in verse 4:

*"You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, that when you hear the sound...of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image."*

He calls for a royal orchestra of sorts to be assembled, and six different musical instruments are mentioned. When the band began to play, all were commanded to bow down and pay homage to the king's image. Refusal to fall down and bow before the image was considered to be an act of high treason. Those who displayed such an act of sedition were to be thrown into a furnace. There would be no toleration for dissenters. Failure to conform would not only mean one would be ostracized, but that one would be executed. Bow down or die! These were the only two options. It was a high pressure situation for these men who had resolved in their heart to worship only the Lord God. So their faith put them on a collision course with the culture of Babylon. In chapter 1, we saw how they are immediately pressured to conform to Babylonian ideals and philosophies. They were relocated from that was familiar. They were re-educated and even renamed by the empire. All of it was an attempt to make them forget the God of Israel and embrace the false gods of the culture. But they never did! They never lost sight of who they truly were, they wouldn't bow, even when faced with the threat of a fiery furnace. They are focused, not distracted.

Having said all of that, I want to point out a second thing in the text, and notice it involves being:

## **2—FAITHFUL to the truth, not deceived by the world's agenda (3:8-23)**

Daniel and his three friends are focused on God and aren't distracted by Babylon's enchantments. But they are also faithful, refusing to be deceived and caught up with the rest of the crowd in its idolatry. We've already seen how Daniel is faithful when it came to speaking the truth to the king as he did in chapter 2. Later on, his faithfulness is seen when he is thrown into a lion's den. The same sort of faithfulness is also displayed by Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. The mass of people who had all been gathered on the plain are

given their orders, peer pressure at the highest level. They're faced with a decision to conform or become crispy critters. Verse 7 says:

*“Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the...music, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.”*

All peoples, nations, and languages fell down before the image. Everyone bows down with the exception of three. Three young worshipers of God in the crowd who are left standing when the rest of society falls to its knees before the image. Imagine how they stood out in stark contrast to everyone else. Thousands are bowing before the image, and here you have three young men who have determined that they will not bow, though they are very much aware of the consequences. Martin Luther knew what it meant to stand alone before a council of authorities in 1521. Called upon to recant his belief in the doctrine of justification by faith alone, Luther stood and said, “Unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason, my conscience is captive to the Word of God, I cannot and will not recant anything. Here I stand, I can do no other!”

William Tyndale was another who knew what it meant to stand alone. In defiance of Henry VIII, he refused to quit his work of translating the Bible into the English language. He held the deep conviction that people needed access to the Word of God in their own language so they could read it themselves. Tyndale succeeded, even though he paid for it with his life. In 1536, he was burned at the stake. His last words were, “Lord, open the king of England’s eyes!”

There are times when standing for what is right may mean that the whole world is watching. Other times, it may not even be seen by others at all. But whether the crowd is large or small, whether your stand is noticed or unnoticed, you must

never forget that the most important One of all is always watching. 1 Peter 3:12 says “the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayer.”

**Revelation 2:2-3—“I know your works...I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for My name’s sake, and you have not grown weary.”**

Why do so many cave to cultural pressure? What is about the allure of popularity that leads people to go along with the crowd? Nobody wants to be disliked or singled out for their faith. There’s not a one of us who relish in the notion of being viewed as ‘weird’ in the eyes of the world. We all desire to be liked and accepted. That’s why so many are willing to forfeit their convictions when faced with a furnace. They want to be accepted by the crowd. The desire to be liked and accepted by the world leads the church to slowly compromise its convictions. Fear of man replaces the fear of God, and God’s Word is set aside as the cultural cause is taken up in its place and you bow to an image that has usurped the rightful place reserved only for Jesus Christ.

Three men out of a crowd that some have estimated to be around 300,000 refuse to bow down. Such a refusal will mean that they become marked men by society. But it is better to be rejected by society and accepted by God than to be accepted by society and rejected by God. Men who refuse to go along with the crowd often gain a reputation, and that’s exactly what happens with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Verse 8 says:

*“Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews.”*

The Chaldeans mentioned were the Babylonian astrologers and magicians who were envious of the success of Daniel and his friends. They had been looking for

an opportunity to make them look bad and accuse them before the king. Notice how they single out the 'Jews.' Anti-semitism isn't a recent phenomena. Hatred has been leveled against the Hebrew people since the beginning.

These Chaldeans who are mentioned are driven either by zeal for the image or jealousy which they held against the three Hebrews because of their promotion. We aren't told the motive, but are simply told that they relay the message to Nebuchadnezzar that these Jews were not doing as they had been told. Note their accusation in verse 12, "These Jews, O king, they pay no attention to you. They don't serve your gods or worship the image that you have set up!" Everyone else bowed down as they were told. The fact that a majority of people do the same thing doesn't make it right. The fact that society is prepared to serve an image because it is the popular thing to do doesn't make it right.

Now, all of these things may be going on around us but this text shows us how God always has His own. What will the nonconformists do? They are living as aliens in a strange world. They do not march to the same drum beat, nor are they consumed with the same agenda. Notice how they're called to stand before the king. Verse 13 says:

*"Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king. Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, 'Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?'"*

Nebuchadnezzar had a religious experience at the close of chapter 2. He had outwardly responded to the truth. But it was not deep enough to change him from the inside. His experience reminds us that it is all too possible to be stirred by the truth of God without being transformed by it. But a religious experience and being born again are two different things. This is why the church in America is in the shape that it is currently in. Large numbers have assumed that because on a day that they were stirred, that must be the day that they were saved. And yet there is no evidence of change in their lives. So they hold on to some stirring that they had in the past and hope that it will be enough on the day when they stand before God to find them welcomed into heaven. (see Matthew 7:21)

The king has an interesting marketing strategy to convince people into embracing the image. He used music to entice them and a furnace to frighten them. Notice in verse 15 his question that is designed to intimidate them:

*“What god will be able to rescue you from my hand?”*

This is way culture thinks! This is the way man in his pride thinks. We are in control of you now! We have your lives, we have your kids, we have your education, we have your future. What god will be able to rescue you? The answer is to be, “Just you wait and see!” Notice their response in verse 16:

*“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, ‘O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.’”*

They essentially say, “We don’t need to defend ourselves to you in this matter. We simply want you to know that if we’re thrown into the furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it. And He it is who will rescue us from your hand. But **if** He does not, we want you to know that we will not serve your gods or bow before your image.” They had already determined to not compromise. Their minds were made up long before they were called to stand before the king. Not only that, but the fact that they don’t waste their time trying to tear down the image reveals the depth of their faith. They aren’t ugly or arrogant. Neither are they looking for a miracle. Their confidence is in God to spare them from the flames, but they’re not going to bow down even if He doesn’t.

A third thing from this text involves being:

### **3—FEARLESS in our witness, not dismayed by the world’s threats (3:24-30)**

They are focused on God, faithful to truth, and fearless in witness.

Nebuchadnezzar flies into a rage. Verse 19 says he:

*“...was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated. And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.”*

He has them bound and throw them into the fire. But his men are fried, and God’s men are fine! In fact, the only ones who experience the judgment of the flames are the ones who act in obedience to the king. The world may threaten the church, the devil may persecute the church, but it is Satan and his system that are on the losing end of things. When on the cross Jesus cried, “It is finished,” it was the shout of Heaven’s victory and Hell’s defeat.

One of the questions that we grapple with in the Christian life is the hardship that is often associated with obedience. When we've been obedient to God, why is it that we often have to endure fiery trials? We'd like to think that obeying God and doing what's right always leads to favorable circumstances. In reality, the opposite is often the case.

The truest test of integrity is not simply our actions but our reactions. When we are under pressure, that's when our real character is revealed. The furnaces of life have a way of revealing our character and refining our faith. British journalist Malcolm Muggeridge became a Christian after living most of his life as an atheist. He made the observation:

**Malcolm Muggeridge** — *“Contrary to what might be expected, I look back on experiences that at the time seemed especially desolating and painful with particular satisfaction. Indeed, I can say with complete truthfulness that everything I have learned in my seventy-five years in this world, everything that has truly enhanced and enlightened my existence, has been through affliction and not through happiness.”*

Now, a remarkable thing happens. When old King Neb peeps into the furnace, he doesn't see three men. Instead, he sees four men walking around. And the fourth Man is like a son of the gods! Verse 24 says:

*“Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, ‘Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?’ They answered and said to the king, ‘True, O king.’ He answered and said, ‘But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.”*

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are walking around in the furnace unharmed. They had been thrown into the furnace as bound men, and now they were unbound. A strange fourth figure was walking around with them. The appearance of the fourth, the King James translates it, is like “the Son of God.” I believe this is a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ Himself. We call this a ‘theophany’ in the Old Testament. Verse 26 says:

*“Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace; he declared, ‘Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here!’ Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king’s counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men. The hair of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them.”*

Those present are inspecting them and note that there was not a sign of the furnace’s power over them. It is a scene like no other as all witness that their hair hadn’t so much as been singed, their clothes had not been harmed, and there was not even a hint of smoke. The Babylonians could not understand what had happened, but we can be certain that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did. Such a deliverance meant that the others looking on took notice. Notice in verse 28:

*“Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, ‘Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king’s command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God.”*

He exalts the Lord who had brought about their deliverance and, in doing so, makes three statements about their faith:

- they trusted in the Lord
- they set aside the king's command
- they yielded up their bodies rather than serve idols

The nature of their obedience to God was such that they yielded up their bodies. Think about what that means. It means that instead of being concerned about their own livelihood, or preservation, they yielded up their bodies as an act of devotion to God. They took no thought for their life. The consuming passion of their heart was obedience to God. We are among those who ought to yield up our bodies in obedience because of what Christ has done for us. In fact, this is exactly what the gospel demands. Jesus said that the one who follows Him is to deny himself, pick up his cross—an instrument of execution—and follow hard after Him. He said that those who are always trying to save their lives will only lose it in the end, while those who lose their lives for His sake truly find it. (see Luke 9:24)

**Romans 12:1-2—“I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”**

Have you yielded your body over to God in total obedience to Him? Or is obedience something that is theoretical to you, only on paper? Christian devotion is such that, in the words of Isaac Watts, it sees the love of God in Christ as so amazing, so divine, that it demands my soul, my life, my all. When I

survey the wondrous cross! Look at the last statement the king makes in verses 29-30:

*“Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way.’ Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.”*

It was a weird way to receive a promotion, but that is what happens. Their willingness to face the furnace for the glory of God led to mighty deliverance, and the world took notice. Look at the statement the king makes in verse 29, “There is no other god who is able to rescue in this way!” Wouldn’t it be something if our lives would cause such a statement to be made by those who watch us?

Does this challenge you? It challenges me. I often think of how easily I topple when it comes to defending my faith when I have an opportunity to speak up. We often want to make our Christianity sound acceptable and appealing to people, to no avail. We find it hard to deal with all the little firecrackers that are going off around us, let alone be willing to face the furnace for Christ’s sake. These men trusted God, defied man, and were willing to pay the price.

Let me finish by pointing out three quick lessons we can draw from this passage to make some application:

**Lesson #1 — God is sovereign whether it results in pain or promotion.**

Keep in mind that the key theme throughout the book of Daniel is the sovereign Lordship of Christ over all things. There is no situation in life that we will ever

encounter that God is not sovereign over. Whether circumstances lead to some pain or some promotion, we can face it with faith in tact and confidence in God.

**Lesson #2—Obedience is significant whether it goes noticed or unnoticed.**

Sometimes, our obedience to God causes others to raise their eyebrows. I have no doubt that were this same thing to unfold today, there would be a lot of voices in the church criticizing them for their stand. Many would accuse them of being wave makers. Some would accuse them of being unloving to those around them, guilty of giving others the wrong impression. “You guys, we’re never going to win these Babylonians over if we keep being so dogmatic and fundamental.” Would you have bowed down?

What if the tables were turned and it happened to be you standing there faced with a decision of whether or not to bow down? What would you do? Can you say that your mind is made up and that you have already determined to serve Christ no matter the cost? I wonder if we’re taking seriously the preparation of our children for the possibility. Could we send our children into a hostile place like this and have them stand against the images? Will they be able to go away to a university that sets up images for worship and stand true to Christ in the midst of it all? The issues then will be determined by the convictions being laid down now.

**Lesson #3—Deliverance is sure whether it is in this life or the next.**

The answer to the question of the king in verse 15 is found in verse 29. How did such a change come about? As the result of faithful men in a fiery furnace with a God who is true to His Word. Society today stands and says, “What god can save you in this way?” It will never be able to say, “No god can save like this!” until it observes some faithful men and women walking in and out of fiery

furnaces for no other reason than God said it, and that settles it. People of conviction standing out in a sea of consensus! The choice may lead to a fiery furnace. And if you find yourself in one, know that God is able to deliver you from it. But even if He chooses not to, know that deliverance is ultimately yours one way or another. Some years ago, Philip Yancey wrote a book entitled, "Where Is God When It Hurts?" He tells a story about an athlete by the name of Brian Sternberg. He was a pole vaulter and he set record after record. Three weeks after he set a new world record he was pole vaulting again, but this time he landed on his neck. He heard it snap and then felt nothing, and from that day forward was a quadriplegic consigned to a wheelchair. Less than a year after that accident, a major magazine asked him to write an article about his career, the accident, and how he as a Christian, was dealing with the fact that he was now in a wheelchair as a quadriplegic. He wrote that article, and here give you the last few sentences of it. He said:

*"Having faith is a necessary step toward one of two things. Being healed is one of them. But peace of mind, if healing does not occur, is the other. Either one will suffice."*

Faith to be healed, faith to have peace if I don't get healed. Either one will suffice. I have the faith that He will deliver me from the furnace, or He will deliver me through it. One way or another, deliverance is mine. When it came to the Father's will, the Son yielded up His body though it meant for Him death on a cross. Satan had tempted Him to take a shortcut, grab some momentary satisfaction and turn some stones into bread, offering the kingdoms of the world to keep Him from the cross. Jesus was perfect in His obedience, fully yielded to the will of the Father even though there was no rescue, no other way but the painful way of the cross.

**1 Peter 4:12—“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as through something strange were happening to you.”**

Sometimes the furnace feels like loss. But pay attention in the story that the only thing the fire burned is what bound them. Their clothes didn't burn. Their hair wasn't singed. Their flesh wasn't touched by the flames. They didn't even smell like smoke. The only thing that burned were those ropes that bound them. And that is why we need adversity in life, because adversity frees us from bondage that we've been living under. God uses it to refine our faith. And I'm convinced that this is what the hymn writer had in mind when he wrote these words:

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word  
What more can He say than to you He hath said  
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled  
Fear not, I am with thee; oh be not dismayed  
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand  
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand  
When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie  
My grace all sufficient shall be thy supply  
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine  
The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes*

*That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake  
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!*

I'm telling you, that is the faith and confidence we need when faced with the furnaces of life, whatever shape they may come in. Your life can preach more eloquently than any sermon I could ever preach from this pulpit. Especially as you suffer and trust God in the midst of your suffering. It will be impressive not only to other Christians, but it will stand out to unbelievers. They will watch you when you're hurting, walking through your fiery trial, your ordeal, and as they see you clinging to, trusting in, and living for the Lord, it will be a powerful witness. Some of our greatest ministry and times of closeness with Jesus come when our faith is under fire.