

A FIREPROOF FAITH THAT WITHSTANDS

(Daniel 3)

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Desiring a faith that is proven under fire:
- B. A summary of events leading to chapter 3:

II. PRESSURED TO CONFORM AND THE RESPONSE OF TRUE FAITH: *(Daniel 3:1-30)*

- A. The pressure to conform with threat of the furnace: *(vs. 1-7)*
 - 1. The motivation of fear to conform and ignore conviction:
 - 2. The cultural & government mandate:
 - 3. The threat of being killed in a furnace:
- B. The courage to stand while accused: *(vs. 8-18)*
 - 1. An accusation made:
 - 2. The moment defiance is supported in faith:
 - 3. The "even if " resolve: *("What if"= Fear vs. "Even if"= Faith)*
- C. The visibility of the fourth man while in the fire: *(vs. 19-25)*
 - 1. The kings added bondage for them not to escape:
 - 2. The fire took care of what bound them in the fire:
 - 3. The fourth man seen by two audiences:
- D. How the story plays out when faith refuses to bow, bend, or burn: *(vs. 26-30)*
 - 1. No appearance or signs that they came out of a furnace:
 - 2. The men protected, God promoted, and added prosperity:

III. APPLICATIONS:

- A. A fireproof faith is not strengthened over night but reinforced over longer periods of time one decision at a time starting with choosing faith over fear in decision making in my life.
- B. Our adversities and trials are the training grounds for Christ promotion and faith testing. Remember to look for the fourth man who stands beside you and is preserving you through your current furnace.

I am part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have Holy Spirit power. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I am a disciple of His. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away or be still.

My past is redeemed. My present makes sense. My future is secure. I'm finished with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, worldly talking, cheap giving, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudit, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded or rewarded. I now live by faith, lean on His presence, walk by patience, am uplifted by prayer and labor by power.

My pace is set. My gait is fast. My goal is heaven. My road is narrow. My way is rough. My companions few. My guide is reliable and my mission is clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded or delayed.

I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the adversary, negotiate at the table of the enemy, pander at the pool of popularity or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, shut up, let up, until I've stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, preached up for the cause of Christ.

I am a disciple of Jesus. I must go till He comes, give 'till I drop, preach till all know, and work till He stops me. And when He comes for His own, He'll have no problem recognizing me. My banner will be clear!

"Written by a missionary to Zimbabwe who was martyred for his faith"