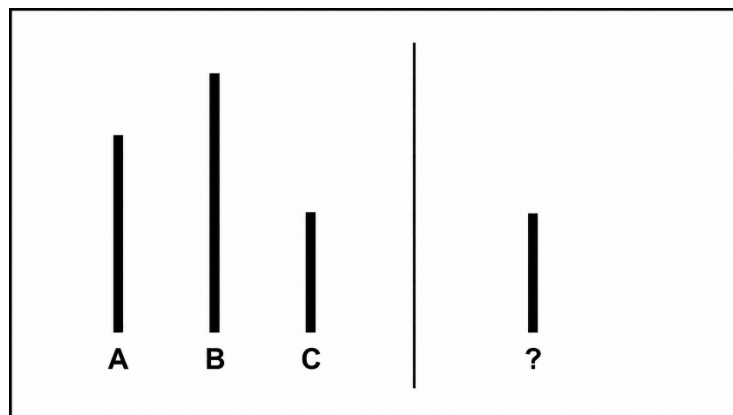
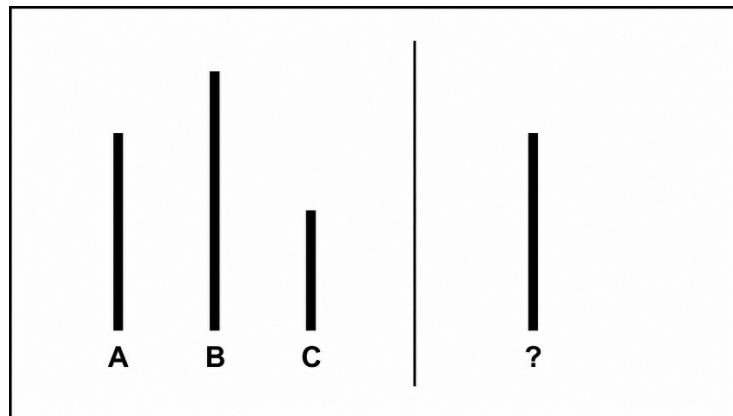


Stand Firm When Others Bow Down

Daniel 3

“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?” (Daniel 3:15, ESV)



The faith of every Christian will be tested, and in order to stand firm through those trials, we need a solid, unshakable foundation.

I. A Clear Understanding of the World's System

“Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him.” (Daniel 2:20–22, ESV)

A. The Foolishness of Worldly Rulers

“King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits.” (Daniel 3:1, ESV)

“Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.” (Daniel 3:2, ESV)

“When you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up.” (Daniel 3:5, ESV)

“The one who wants to make a name for himself is the one who is insecure. But the one who has been blinded by true glory praises the One who is worthy, not himself.” (A. Kalinsky)

“And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace.” (Daniel 3:6, ESV)

“the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience” (Ephesians 2:2, ESV)

“Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” (Matthew 10:39, ESV)

B. The Hatred of the People of This World

“There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.” (Daniel 3:12, ESV)

“If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. **19** If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.” (John 15:18–19, ESV)

II. A Good Knowledge of the True God

“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? **15** 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?” (Daniel 3:14–15, ESV)

What kind of God is He?

- ***He is the God who punishes sin.***

“And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand...” (Daniel 1:2, ESV)

- ***He is the God who gives favor and compassion.***

“And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs.” (Daniel 1:9, ESV)

- ***He is the God who gives knowledge, understanding, and wisdom.***

“As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.” (Daniel 1:17, ESV)

- ***He is the God who gives mercy and protects His people.***

“and told them to seek mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.” (Daniel 2:18, ESV)

- ***He is the God who rules over kings and kingdoms.***

“Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. **21** He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings...” (Daniel 2:20–21, ESV)

- ***He is the God who is able to save even in the most difficult circumstances.***

“Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace...” (Daniel 3:17, ESV)

“but **we preach Christ** crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, **24** but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ **the power of God and the wisdom of God.**” (1 Corinthians 1:23–24, ESV)

III. Trusting Your Life Fully to God

“And Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, ‘O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. **17** 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. 18** 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.’” (Daniel 3:16–18, ESV)

“Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego...” (Daniel 3:19, ESV)

“He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated.” (Daniel 3:19, ESV)

A. Trusting God Begins with Small Things

“So Pilate said to him, ‘You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?’ **11** Jesus answered him, ‘You could have no power at all against me unless it had been given you from above...’” (John 19:10–11, ESV)

B. When You Trust God, He Will Be with You

“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.’ **25** 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.’” (Daniel 3:24–25, ESV)

“God is just as good when He doesn’t heal as He is when He does. God is just as loving when He doesn’t provide all that we think we need as when He does. God is just as gracious when He says ‘no’ as He is when He says ‘yes.’ God is God, and God is to be uncompromisingly worshiped, and what He does is His business.” (J. MacArthur)

C. Trusting God Brings Him Glory

“Then Nebuchadnezzar 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.’” (Daniel 3:28, ESV)

If, in order to live, you have to disregard God’s Word, compromise your conscience, and conform to this world, are you sure that you really need to live?