

Daniel 3:14-18, 28, 30 (NLT)

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.”

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.

30 **Then the king promoted** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to even higher positions in the province of Babylon.



Through It All

Daniel 3:14-18; 28,30

Introduction

One of most inspirational gospel artist is Andrae Crouch. He has been labeled as the “Father of Modern Gospel Music”. In fact, many churches distanced themselves from Andrae Crouch because they said his music was too secular. His career began in with his first hit recording, “The Blood Will Never Lose It’s Power”. After this song, his popularity began to grow. He began working with secular artist such as Elvis Presley and others. During his early fame and popularity, he wrote a song called “**Through It All**” in 1971.

He performed the song for Billy Graham in Mexico in 1975.

Although the song was **written early** in his music career, it was **not realized** until after trials. The words of "Through it All" became especially meaningful when his mother, his father, and then his brother all died within a span of two years.

It was then that he **understood** those famous words.....

Through it all, through it all,
I've **LEARNED** to trust in Jesus, I've **LEARNED** to **TRUST IN GOD**.
Through it all, through it all,
I've **LEARNED** to **DEPEND UPON HIS WORD**.

It was **THEN** that he understood those famous words....

I thank God for the mountains, and I thank Him for the valleys,
I thank Him for the storms He **brought me through**.
For if I'd never had a problem, I wouldn't **KNOW** God could solve them,
I'd never **KNOW** what faith in God could do.

Introduction

Those words remind us that in our walk with God we must **LEARN** to Trust in God
We must **LEARN** to Depend upon HIS WORD...

Many people can **say** they trust him, Many people can **say** they love him, Many people can **say** they put their hope in him... But until you've gone **THROUGH** some difficult days and trying times you would not understand...

For those who haven't gone through some adversity, it doesn't make sense to say....

THANK YOU for my storms, **THANK YOU** for my valleys, **THANK YOU** for my hills,

THANK YOU for my tribulations, **THANK YOU** for my struggles...

It's only after the test, trial, and tragedies....That you **KNOW WHAT FAITH IN HIS WORD CAN DO...**

It's only **after the test** can you truly have a testimony

It's only **after the struggle** can you truly renew your strength

It's only **after the pain** can you truly appreciate his power

It's only **after the sickness** can you truly know he's a healer

I love this song because it gives us 3 key words that highlight our sermon principles for today...

“**LEARNED**” ~ {Learned to Trust, Learned to Depend} ~ suggests there is a **PROCESS**

“**THANK GOD**” ~ when you've been you delivered **you can look back** with a thankful/grateful heart

“**KNOW**” ~ {Know what Faith in His Word Can Do} ~ suggests that on the other side of the trial, I **KNOW**

Introduction

*That's what we see in our text this morning... The 3 Hebrew Boys are **put to the test**...
They are willing to stand for God ~ They are willing to speak for God*

*Therefore, God takes them **THROUGH** a difficult moment to **PROVE THEIR TRUST** in God...
It's one thing **say** you will stand for him, it's totally different when you are taken from the
CLASS OF COMFORT and put in the **CLASS OF CHAOS***

*They are put in a situation where they must **DEPEND UPON GOD'S WORD***

*Can I suggest that's what we've **experienced** this past year....
We've sang about His goodness...We've shouted about His goodness
Therefore, God **ARRANGED** a season, to take us from the
CLASS OF COMFORT and place us in the **CLASS OF CHAOS***

*We've experienced death, disease, debt, and division...
We've experienced isolation, frustration, devastation, and manipulation....
But this text teaches us.....*

*When It's all over, we too can sing the words of Andrae Crouch
Through It All, We've **LEARNED** to Trust In God
Through It All, We've **LEARNED** to Depend upon God's Word
HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE....*

Learned To Depend Upon God's Presence

Daniel 3:24-25 (NKJV)

24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king."

25 "Look!" he answered, "**I see four men loose**, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the **form of the fourth is like the son of god.**"

When you go back and read from chapter 1... it always mentions, **Daniel**, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.... They are mentioned as Jews who were taken by the king's court because they were gifted and talented... **Daniel** is special... In chapter 2 it's **Daniel** who interprets the King's dream and keeps all the astrologers from being killed... After this, **Daniel** is given an elevated position and he recommends the 3 Hebrew boys to be a part of the king's special staff. They receive their position **because of Daniel**... **Daniel** is an integral part of their success and their story...

But in this chapter...there is no **Daniel**...

In this chapter they are facing their greatest challenge and **Daniel** is nowhere to be found... God is suggesting that that in the midst of their most pressurized situation, **THEY LEARNED** it was not **Daniel** that they needed, it was the fourth Man... We must learn to **PRIORITIZE PEOPLE** and not let them take **HIS PLACE**... God will put some special people in your life to be critical resources, but they can't **REPLACE GOD**...

This is one of the things **LEARNED** during the Pandemic... There were some things we thought we couldn't do without But God reminded us... When God is **ALL YOU HAVE**... You discover that God is **ALL YOU NEED**...

GOD'S PRESENCE makes the **DIFFERENCE**

Learned To Depend Upon God's Presence

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25 "Look!" he answered, "**I see four men loose**, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the **form of the fourth is like the son of god.**"

The King thought that he destroy God's servant by not **INCLUDING HIM**...

But when God's servants are included, he will get **INVOLVED**

The enemy thought he was putting them **IN A PLACE** where God could not deliver... He failed to Realize **GOD'S WORD**

Matthew 28 – Lo I am **WITH YOU ALWAYS**... even to the end of the world

Hebrews 13:5 – I will **NEVER LEAVE YOU** nor FORSAKE YOU..

Isaiah 43:2 - When you pass through the waters, **I WILL BE WITH YOU**; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. **WHEN YOU WALK THROUGH THE FIRE, YOU WILL NOT BE BURNED**...

Exodus 33:14 ~ And he said, "MY PRESENCE WILL GO WITH YOU, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 18:20 ~ For where two or three are gathered in my name, **THERE AM I AMONG YOU**...

That's what I love about God, he will not **ALLOW YOU** to go through the pain **BY YOURSELF**...

Somebody can testify, the only reason you survived was because of the **PRESENCE OF GOD**

IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR THE LORD WHO WAS BY MY SIDE...

I've **LEARNED** to Depend upon God's Presence

Learned To Trust In God's Power

Daniel 3:15 (NLT)

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?**"

In chapter 3, we see an **EARTHLY KING** who desires to set up his own kingdom.

He has a following **who feeds his ego and bows to his every command...**

He has a following **who worships at his feet and moves at his every command...**

He has a following that **thinks he has ALL POWER...**

He has a following **who will compromise their principles, compromise their practice** because of his power...

This following is faithful to him, But not GOD....

He asks **God's servant's** what god will be able to rescue you from **MY POWER....**

What he didn't realize is that we serve **THE GOD...** who does not have **SOME POWER...**

But we serve **THE GOD** who has **ALL POWER...**

The 3 Hebrew boys knew they were facing a powerful king,
but they also knew they were standing for **A POWERFUL GOD....**

Here is what they discovered..... If you **STAND FOR HIM...** He will **STAND WITH YOU....**

Learned To Trust In God's Power

The King Didn't Recognize **The Source Of Their Power**

Matthew 22:29 ~ Jesus answered and said, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor **THE POWER OF GOD**."

Psalm 62:11 ~ God has spoken plainly, and I have heard it many times: **POWER, O GOD, BELONGS TO YOU;**

2 Corinthians 13:4 ~ Although he was crucified in weakness, he now lives **BY THE POWER OF GOD**. We, too, are weak, just as Christ was, but when we deal with you, we will be alive with him and **WE WILL HAVE GOD'S POWER**.

Ephesians 6:10 ~ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the **POWER OF HIS MIGHT**.

Philippians 3:10 ~ I count all things as garbage.....that I may know Him and the **POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION**

There is **POWER** In His Name ~ There Is **POWER** In His Word ~ There Is **POWER** In His People

Songwriter said...

There is **POWER, POWER**, wonder working **POWER**, In the blood of the Lamb

Somebody can testify, in the midst of this past year, you've experienced God's Power
Power to Heal ~ Power to Deliver ~ Power to Overcome ~ Power to Stand ~ Power to Set You Free

Restoration Power ~

Restored My Joy ~ Restored My Hope ~ Restored My Strength

Illustration of Bringing Power To New Facility

Learned The Process Of Promotion

Daniel 3:30

30 Then **the king promoted** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego **to even higher positions** in the province of Babylon.

Many people are seeking **PROMOTION** without going through God's **PROCESS...**

Psalm 75:6-7 (KJV)

6 For **PROMOTION** comes neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south.

7 But God is the judge: he puts down one and sets up another.

This is why people can't understand your **ELEVATION** ~ While looking at your **SITUATION...**

They see your **struggles**, They see your **strain**, They see your **shortcomings...** They see your **stress**
But Don't See Your **SOURCE...**

Because these 3 Hebrew boys were faithful to the Lord, they passed **THROUGH** the furnace.

And on **THE OTHER SIDE**, they were **PROMOTED** in the kingdom.

God never uses anyone in a **GREAT WAY** until He first takes that person through the **FURNACE OF AFFLICTION**.

- Elijah didn't stand on Mt. Carmel in power until he learned to trust by a dry brook in humility.
- David served Faithfully in field, fighting Goliath, frustrated by Saul, forsaken by family, before taking the throne....
- Joseph was thrown in a pit, falsely accused, put in prison, forgotten, forsaken before receiving position in the palace
- Jesus was betrayed, denied, crucified on a cross and put in a grave before given a name above every name....

Learned The Process Of Promotion

Daniel 3:26-27

26 Then Nebuchadnezzar shouted: "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!

God may allow you to struggle in **ISOLATION**, But He will **ELEVATE** you in the **PRESENCE OF YOUR ENEMIES...**

They are waiting for you to fall
They are waiting for you to give up
They are waiting for you to quit
They are waiting for you to let go....

God brings us out in the midst of people that were hoping we wouldn't make it...

Why God won't let me relocate.... Just get away and start over among people don't know my mistakes...

These people here won't never let me outlive my past...

God's Desire and Design is to **Bring You Out**...So You Can Say....**LOOK AT ME...**

I am a living testimony ~ I should have been dead and gone

I don't even deserve to be here

You don't know my story.... All the things that I've Been Through

You can't feel my Pain or what I had to go through to get here...

You'll never understand my praise....Don't try to figure it out...

Conclusion

*After going through a difficult year... Somebody can testify
Through It All, I've **LEARNED** To Trust In Jesus...I've **LEARNED** To Trust In God
Through It All, I've **LEARNED** To Depend Upon His Word*

*On the Other Side of this..
You can Thank God for your struggles
You can Thank God for your difficulties
You can Thank God for your shortcomings
You can Thank God for your mountains
You can Thank God for your valleys
You can Thank God for your tears...*

*You Can Now Testify....
This past year has **deepened your Faith**
This past year has **broadened your Beliefs**
This past year has **strengthened your Stand**
This past year has **confirmed your Confidence***

You KNOW what It means to TRUST IN THE LORD....

Remember This....

Through It All

Learned To Depend Upon God's Presence

Learned To Trust In God's Power

Learned The Process Of Promotion