

Courageous Faith

Part 10—Standing Up for What You Believe, Developing Spiritual Determination

1. Putting Your Faith to the Test.

- Daniel's name has long been associated with _____ for faith in God
 - They either had to accept the king's request or find a way to _____

Daniel 1:8—⁸But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. (NIV)

Daniel 1:11-14—¹¹Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, ¹²“Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. ¹³Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see.” ¹⁴So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days. (NIV)

Daniel 1:15-16—¹⁵At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. ¹⁶So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead. (NIV)

Daniel 1:17—¹⁷To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds. (NIV)

2. Bend, Bow or Burn!

Daniel 3:4-6—⁴Then the herald loudly proclaimed, “This is what you are commanded to do, O peoples, nations and men of every language: ⁵As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. ⁶Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.” (NIV)

Daniel 3:12—¹²“But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—who pay no attention to you, O king. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up.” (NIV)

Daniel 3:15b-18—¹⁵“ . . . Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?” ¹⁶Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and He will rescue us from your hand, O king. ¹⁸But even if He does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.” (NIV)

Daniel 3:25—²⁵He exclaimed, “Look! I see four men, not tied, walking around in the fire unharmed; and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.” (HCSB)

Daniel 3:28-29—²⁸Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in Him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own

God. ²⁹Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way.” (NIV)

- Two things are apparent from this account:
 - It was an incredible _____ to Nebuchadnezzar
 - The Hebrews put their fate in _____

3. Enduring to the End.

Daniel 6:22—²²“My God sent His angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in His sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king.” (NIV)

Daniel 6:26a-27—²⁶“. . . For He is the living God and He endures forever; His kingdom will not be destroyed. His dominion will never end. ²⁷He rescues and He saves; He performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth.” (NIV)

Action Steps . . .

- Stand Up for God! Trust Him to protect you!