

THRIVING IN CHAOS: FACING THE FIRE

DANIEL 3

*“Dear friends, don’t be surprised at the **fiery trials** you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, **be very glad**-for these trials make you partners with Christ in His suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing His glory when it is revealed to all the world.” 1 Peter 4:12-13 (NLT)*

When We Trust God and Face a Fire

- 1) Sometimes, God **removes the fire**.
- 2) Sometimes, God does a **miracle** and rescues us in the fire.
- 3) Sometimes, God uses fire to **refine us**, or even **save us**.

*“I have refined you, but not as silver is refined. Rather, I have refined you in the furnace of suffering.”
Isaiah 48:10 (NLT)*

*“‘Didn’t we tie up three men and throw them into the furnace?’ ‘Yes, Your Majesty, we certainly did,’ they replied. ‘Look!’ Nebuchadnezzar shouted. ‘I see **four men**, unbound, walking around in the fire unharmed! And the fourth looks like a god!’” Daniel 3:24b-25 (NLT)*

- 4) Sometimes, the fire **kills us** and we have the honor of **dying for Christ**.

*“But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed steadily into heaven and saw the glory of God, and he saw Jesus standing in the place of honor at God’s right hand. And he told them, ‘Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing in the place of honor at God’s right hand!’...As they stoned him, Stephen prayed, “‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ He fell to his knees, shouting, “‘Lord, don’t charge them with this sin!’ And with that, he died.”
Acts 7:55-60 (NLT)*

*“By faith these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions, quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword. Their weakness was turned to strength. They became strong in battle and put whole armies to flight. Women received their loved ones back again from death. But others were tortured, refusing to turn from God in order to be set free. They placed their hope in a better life after the resurrection. Some were jeered at, and their backs were cut open with whips. Others were chained in prisons. Some died by stoning, some were sawed in half, and others were killed with the sword. Some went about wearing skins of sheep and goats, destitute and oppressed and mistreated. They were too good for this world, wandering over deserts and mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground. **All these people** earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised.”
Hebrews 11:33-39 (NLT)*

How Should We Respond When Facing A Fire?

- 1) Remember that **God is with me**.

“...For God has said, “‘I will never fail you. I will never abandon you.’” Hebrews 13:5 (NLT)

(Jesus) “...I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:20b (NLT)

- 2) Know that God has the **power to save me**.

“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.” Daniel 3:17 (NLT)

- 3) Stay **faithful to Jesus**, no matter what.

*“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.” Daniel 3:18 (NLT)*

- 4) Understand with God, You’re in a **Win/Win** situation!

(Paul) “For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better.” Philippians 1:21 (NLT)