

AMBASSADORS AFTER THE TEST

2 Corinthians 5: ²⁰ Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

1. Don't be surprised when you are tested

1 Peter NKJV 4: ¹² Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; ¹³ but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. ¹⁴ If you are **reproached** for the name of Christ, blessed *are you*, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. **On their part** He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a **busybody** in other people's matters. ¹⁶ Yet if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this **matter**.

- Yes, you will go through some trials as a Christian,
- It's an honor to suffer reproach for God's kingdom

2. You can make it through the tests

James NKJV 1: ² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces **patience**. ⁴ But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be **perfect** and complete, lacking nothing.

- Count it as joy to prove God's word works,
- What does patience having its perfect work look like?

3. Emerge from the test as a committed Ambassador,

Daniel NKJV 3: ¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷ If that *is the case*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver *us* from your hand, O king. ¹⁸ But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."

- This kind of commitment shuts the doors of compromise,

¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated. ²⁰ And he commanded

certain mighty men of valor who *were* in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, *and* cast *them* into the burning fiery furnace. ²¹ Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their *other* garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. ²² Therefore, because the king's command was [Ⓜ]urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. ²³ And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

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."

³⁰ Then the king [Ⓜ]**promoted** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon.