



## DANIEL 3 PART 2

*The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold,  
But the Lord tests the hearts. - Proverbs 17:3*

Daniel's friends proved that their faith was their own. In the past, Daniel led by example, but in his absence, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego held to their convictions and God's Law. (God's Word) We all know the story of the fiery furnace, but we may miss the fact that the command to worship the image may be a test of loyalty more than just an exercise in Nebuchadnezzar's vanity. The kingdom was made up of people from every race and nation, and this was a way to test the allegiance of the leaders of his royal staff. An interesting note is that the furnace used may have been a furnace used to smelt precious metals such as gold and silver. It is said that a silver smith can see his reflection in the molten silver once it is purified. If God were to test your allegiance, would He see His reflection in the silver?

### **Read Daniel 3:16-30. Discuss how God has been with you in your fires and reined you. Discussion Questions**

1. We know Daniel was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego when they entered Nebuchadnezzar's palace. They witnessed Daniel stand firm in his faith when it came to the food they ate. Yet, in this section of scripture, we see these three men standing firm in their faith without Daniel present, meaning their faith was their own. When did your faith become your own? God only has children; He doesn't have grandchildren. What advice would you give to others to discover and embrace their relationship with God?
2. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were respectful to King Nebuchadnezzar even when they didn't want to obey him. They were not rude when they told him they would not bow down to the idol he created. How can we be agreeably disagreeable with unbelievers?
3. God never promised us we would not have trials in our lives. This was evident for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. God was with them IN the fire, He didn't rescue them from it. How do you respond when people ask: "How can a good and loving God allow bad things to happen to good people?"
4. In Daniel chapter 3 we see three young men make a difficult decision to follow God even if it cost them their lives. They had been faithful with every other small choice leading up to this point that allowed them to stand firm in a bigger way. In Luke 16:10 Jesus tells us that 'he who is faithful with little will be faithful with much.' What little things can you be faithful with every single day that will help you be faithful when bigger things come your way?
5. Similarly, when we make small compromises for the world, we allow ourselves to fall for bigger ones. How can you remain uncompromising in your faith in God without isolating yourself from the world? Is it possible to live a life that glorifies God without offending others? Why or why not?