Faith in the Fire

Greg Kline · Daniel 3:1–30

INTRODUCTION

- Do you have the faith of a spare tire? That's the kind of faith that comes out only when you're kind of in need of an emergency.
- Maybe we have the faith like a wheelbarrow. That is, it's easily upset and must constantly be pushed forward.
- And so I'd like to ask everyone this morning what type of faith do you have in God?

1 Who Was Their Deliverer? The God of Heaven

Daniel 2:14–19; Daniel 2:46–49

- Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, and told them to seek mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery.
- Now who did they turn to? The God of heaven. Who was their deliverer? The God of heaven.
- Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery.
- These men stood tall, they relied on God, and he was there for them.

2 Sin Never Stops Knocking at Our Door

Daniel 3:1–15; Matthew 4

- Sometimes in life we face these moments of fiery temptation. These fierce struggles, and we get over the hurdle. And then guess what's next? A seemingly bigger hurdle.
- And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace.
- Sin never stops knocking at our door. But our faith must also be standing behind it, ready to keep it closed.
- To not just celebrate the victory, but to thank God for it and to pray to him for strength in the next one.

3 Their Faith Was Resolute

Daniel 3:12

- Their faith in God compelled them to make zero compromise. Not once, not in one form, not in one single way.
- This was known. They didn't just hide it. It wasn't hush-hush. These men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, would not compromise.

4 Their Faith Was Uncompromising

Daniel 3:16

- O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.

- Think about how unmoving and unwavering their faith was.
- These men obeyed God and physically faced the consequences for it. Being a Christian does not excuse us from the physical consequences of proclaiming our faith in God.
- God is not a deliverer of the physical, he is the deliverer of the spiritual. He wants to save our souls, not our bank accounts or our pride or even our health.

5 Their Faith Was Complete

Daniel 3:17–18

- Our God, whom we serve, is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace. And he will deliver us out of your hand, O King.
- But if not, be it known to you, O King, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.
- They understood God is all powerful. But that God cares about the eternal man.
- And my faith should not be shaken by anything that I think God should do. Because God is in control and God has a plan.

6 Their Faith Was Triumphant

Daniel 3:23–30; Hebrews 11:23–26; Matthew 10:26–28

- But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt. And the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.
- He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt. For he was looking to the reward.
- And do not fear those who kill the body, but cannot kill the soul. Rather, fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.
- They weren't afraid of what Nebuchadnezzar could do because they knew God was who to trust in. God was who to fear.

THE CHALLENGE

Consider this morning where your faith is. Has your faith shown itself enough to consistently and constantly say, Not my will, Lord, but yours be done? If not, the time to start is today.

MY NOTES