PASTOR CHUCK DEVOS L.I.F.E.
Live It For Eternity

Sunday, January 15, 2023

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NO MATTER WHAT FAITH

Daniel 3

For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline . (2 Timothy 1:7, NLT)

King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, ninety feet high and nine feet wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. (Daniel 3:1, NIV)

Then the herald loudly proclaimed, "This is what you are commanded to do, O peoples, nations and men of every language: As 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. Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace." (Daniel 3:4-6, NIV)

Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?" (Daniel 3:13-15, NIV)

A FAITH THAT IS <u>TESTED</u> BY <u>FIRE</u> IS A FAITH THAT CAN BE TRUSTED

WHEN MY FAITH IS TESTED BY FIRE:

1. I determine to <u>obey God's commands</u> instead of <u>man's expectations</u>.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. (Daniel 3:16, NIV)

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2. I follow God's voice instead of other voices.

If 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. (Daniel 3:17, NIV)

3. I believe God.

But 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. (Daniel 3:18, NIV)

Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire? "They replied, "Certainly, O king." He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like the Son of God." (Daniel 3:24 & 25, NIV)

YOU MAY NEVER REALLY KNOW JUST HOW GOOD THE PRESENCE OF GOD IS UNTIL YOU ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FIRE

Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them. Then 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. (Daniel 3:26-28, NIV)