



When
Life
Heats
Up!

**Daniel
3:13-18**

1 Peter 4:12-16 is Relevant Here

“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;

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 (a spiritual refining process)

If you are reproached (insulted) for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters.

Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter."

What Do We Learn From These Verses?

- Don't be surprised if living as a Christian causes you more problems with people than you had before

Christians lose jobs, close friends, "cool status"

Christians are "peculiar people." 1 Peter 2:9; Isaiah 5:20

Putting God on display is not "your problem" but "your responsibility." "*glorify God on this behalf*"

- However, if you get in trouble because you broke the law, or were immoral, that's another matter. Don't blame God

Things to Remember When Life Heats Up!

#1 We Need a Faith That Can't Be Intimidated

- A foreign king got mad at 3 children of God he had captured who refused to worship his god, Daniel 3:13-15:

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 and worship the image of gold I have set up? Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe 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 the blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?"

- **The king was trying to intimidate/bully/pressure the three children of God**
- **Goliath tried the same thing, 1 Samuel 17:4-9**
- **Don't be surprised if You will be Intimidated too!**

God Has Given Us Victory Over This Attitude

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of sound mind (discipline). 2 Timothy 1:7

- **Our young people need a faith that does not bow to peer pressure, "Do what I want or else!"**
- **Our adults need a faith that will cause them to stand up for Jesus on the job, in school, in the public eye**

#2 When Life Heats Up, We Need a Faith That Can Face Reality

- Notice the children of God's response to the king (supervisor has challenged their morals), verse 17:

"If we are thrown into the blazing furnace ..."

- The 3 children of God admitted that the reality was:

The King Could Throw Them In the Fire!

- Sometimes our Christian faith has to face the reality of the fire (it gets hot for us too)
- Some preachers believe nothing bad should happen to Christians (everything that we have is divinely protected)

Tell that to Job! (none like him in the earth, Job 1:8)

#3 When Life Heats Up, We Need a Faith Subject to God's Will

- Daniel 3:17, *"If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it ..."*
- The word able is significant, meaning God has the power or God can handle our problem

Our Lives Are Always Subject to the Divine Will Of God!

- **Two Christians are involved in two separate car accidents with totally different outcomes, death and life. WHY?**
- **Two Christian sisters are diagnosed with cancer in the same organ with totally different outcomes. Why?**
- **Two Christian sisters have babies the same month, one with no issues, the other with special needs. Why?**

The Answer Is:

Our Lives are Subject to the Divine Will Of God!

- God's servants knew that God "*was able*" to deliver them and their faith relied on that truth;
- But they also knew that their lives were subject to God's divine will and their fate was out of their hands
- When life heats up we need a faith that will be committed to God regardless of "our outcome."
- The concept of "Ride or Die" didn't began with "Hip Hop!"

If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the lord. So, whether we live or die we belong to (we are committed to) the Lord. Romans 14:8

Notice, the Faith of These Believers in God Didn't Depend On Their Outcome

“If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”
Dan. 3:17-18

Many Will Put “Conditions” On Their Service to God

- I'll serve you if ... you take me higher in the company
- I'll follow you if ... you put me in a better situation
- I'll follow you if ... you conquer my medical issues

On The Other Hand, the “But if not faith” says I'll follow you regardless of what happens to me!

#4 When Life Heats Up, We
Need the Faith to Know That
We Are Not Alone! God is There

***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 (7
times hotter than usual)?
They replied “Certainly your
majesty.” Daniel 3:24***

***He said, “Look (from his
man cave)! I see four men
walking around in the fire,
unbound and unharmed,
and the fourth looks like a
son of the gods.” Verse 25***



When Life Heated Up for Them,
The Three Children of God In
Daniel 3, Basically Said:

**“God, Our Life Is In Your
Hands.”**

Can We Say That?

(How Do We Say That?)

The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38

If You Are a Christian That Has
Wandered Away From God

***Admit Your Sins to an All Wise
Father and Allow the Church to
Pray With You and For You***

James 5:16