



-.001.tiff

¹King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. ²Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

—Daniel 3:1-2 ESV

-.002.tiff

⁴And the herald proclaimed aloud, “You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, ⁵that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. ⁶And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace.”

-.003.tiff

⁷Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up... ¹²“There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.” —Daniel 3:4-7, 12 ESV

-.004.tiff

¹⁶Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷If this be so, 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. ¹⁸But 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.” —Daniel 3:16-18 ESV

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²⁴Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?” They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.” ²⁵He answered and said, “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.” —Daniel 3:24-25 ESV

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²⁸Nebuchadnezzar answered and said,
 “Blessed be the God of Shadrach,
 Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent His
 Angel and delivered His servants, who
 trusted in Him, and set aside the king’s
 command, and yielded up their bodies
 rather than serve and worship any god
 except their own God.” —Daniel 3:28 ESV

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-.008.tiff

When Facing the Heat of Adversity:

**Expect Your Faith to Be
 Challenged and Tested**

-.009.tiff

**“A faith that cannot be tested
 cannot be trusted.”**

-.010.tiff

²Count it all joy, my brothers, when
 you meet trials of various kinds,
³for you know that the testing of
 your faith produces steadfastness.
⁴And let steadfastness have its full
 effect, that you may be perfect and
 complete, lacking in nothing.

—James 1:2-4 ESV

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⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little
 while, if necessary, you have been grieved by
 various trials, ⁷so that the tested
 genuineness of your faith—more precious
 than gold that perishes though it is tested by
 fire—may be found to result in praise and
 glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus
 Christ... ¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at
 the fiery trial when it comes upon you to
 test you, as though something strange were
 happening to you. —1 Peter 1:6-7; 4:12 ESV

-.012.tiff

⁸Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

—1 Peter 5:8-9 ESV

-.013.tiff

“There is no way to know who you really are until you’ve been tested.”

—Timothy Keller

-.014.tiff

When Facing the Heat of Adversity:

2

Tests of Faith Often Include Fear and Betrayal

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“There is hardly one of us who does not know what it is to be betrayed. The figure of Judas, which we used to find so difficult to understand is now fairly familiar to us. The air that we breathe is so polluted by mistrust that it almost chokes us... Our duty is to foster and strengthen confidence wherever we can. Trust will always be one of the greatest, rarest, and happiest blessings of our life in community, though it can emerge only on the dark background of a necessary mistrust.”

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer



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When Facing the Heat of Adversity:

3

True Faith Leads Us to Submission and Surrender

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¹⁷“If this be so, 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. ¹⁸But 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.”

—Daniel 3:17-18 ESV

-.018.tiff

“Faith is not necessarily the power to make things the way we want them to be; it is courage to face things as they are.” —Ron Dunn

-.019.tiff

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.
—Matthew 10:28 ESV

-.020.tiff

When Facing the Heat of Adversity:

4

God is Always Faithful and True

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¹But now thus says the LORD, He who created you, O Jacob, He who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine.
²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.” —Isaiah 43:1-3a ESV

-.022.tiff

Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent His Angel and delivered His servants, who trusted in Him, and set aside the king’s command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God.” —Daniel 3:28 ESV

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