

Maple Springs Baptist Church

Series: Stand—Stories of Courage from Daniel

Week 5: Stand Firm

Some of you will go through a tough time!

Heading into a trial, middle of a trial, coming out of a trial: **John 16:33**.

You may be battling one fire or another: Unanswered prayer, criticism, Lost job, Health issues, Financial challenges, Strained relationships, Discouragement, Depression.

What do you do, when you're in the middle of the furnace? **1 Peter 1:7**

TRUTH: A FAITH THAT'S TESTED IS A FAITH THAT CAN BE TRUSTED.

Review: King Nebuchadnezzar after conquering Judah, ordered the capture of the best and brightest. The King makes gold statue 90 ft tall & 9 ft wide—Every gov leader, adviser, judge, magistrate to come to the dedication!

Daniel 3:4-6

Daniel 3:12-15: Everyone was bowing, 3 guys standing

A faith that's tested is a faith that can be trusted.

THREE QUALITIES OF STANDING IN FAITH

1. FAITH OBEYS GOD INSTEAD OF FOLLOWING MAN. Daniel 3:16

Love that they didn't need to defend themselves—don't have to explain everything.

Didn't weigh pro's & cons.

Didn't post on FB ask for advice.

Didn't have to pray.

The plan was: obedience. (BTW it was a Predetermined Plan)

Think about how easy it would have been to rationalize a different plan.

I Promise you—if **you're committed to serving God Satan will give you ample opportunities to compromise your commitment.**

Faith obeys God instead of following man.

2. FAITH BELIEVES IN SPITE OF WHAT IT SEES. Daniel 3:17

No matter what I see—my faith says God is willing and able!

See a bad medical report—my God is willing and able to heal!

See a broken relationship—my God is willing and able to restore!

See a dangerously low bank account—my God is willing and able to provide!

Jehovah-jireh: He is my provider.

God is not confined to the things that I see. My faith believes in spite of what it sees! But what if God doesn't do what I'm believing for him to do???

3. FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY. THE OUTCOME IS GOD'S. Daniel 3:18

Because we will do what's right before God and trust him with the results!

Not a big deal when we know the end of the story
These 3 had no idea what would happen!

King ordered furnace heated 7x hotter, strongest soldiers to tie up three men. Throw in.
Flames killed soldiers. **Daniel 3:24-25**

**God will show you His power, in all kinds of different ways, through the course of your life.
But you will know His presence - the tangible reality of the presence of Christ - best, when
you are in the fire.**

Don't minimize what the presence of God in the circumstance of your hurt will accomplish.
Daniel 3:27b

They Didn't bend, didn't bow, and because of God-wouldn't burn!

When God shows up in your hurt, the world will look on, and God will be glorified.
Daniel 3:28

A Faith that is Tested is a Faith that can be Trusted.