

Thriving in an Uncertain World

Week 4: Heat

Daniel 3: 1 – 30



⁶Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. ¹⁷If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. ¹⁸But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."

1. What strikes you about the character and faith of these young men? Of the people in the podcast?
2. These young men felt intense pressure to conform, to compromise. Where do we feel that pressure today in our society? How do you decide which hills to die on? Where is the line for you? How can we encourage other believers who are being tested? Is there a Bible verse that offers you help and direction?
3. Often we believe God will protect us from the fiery furnace. We wrestle with disappointment with God when he doesn't. What do these young men teach us about suffering and faith?
4. Can you describe a time when you wrestled with disappointment with God. What got you through? How would you counsel someone whose faith is wavering because of disappointment with God?
5. "I have refined you but not in the way silver is refined. Rather, I have refined you in the furnace of suffering." Isaiah 48:10 (NLT)
What lessons can we learn in the furnaces of life? (v. 28,29) What perspectives do we need to be "learners" in those times?
6. Sometimes God protects us from the fiery furnaces, sometimes he enters into them with us. Share an occasion when "God showed up for you" in a time of hardship and testing.
7. "But each of you must be careful how you build [your lives]. For God has already placed Jesus Christ as the one and only foundation... And the quality of each person's work will be seen when the Day of Christ exposes it. For on that Day fire will reveal everyone's work.... If what was built on the foundation survives the fire, the builder will receive a reward. But if your work is burnt up, then you will lose it; but you yourself will be saved, as if you had escaped through the fire." ¹ Corinthians 3:10b-15 (GN)
What steps can we take to build a life on a foundation that can be tested by fire?