

Faith in the Fire

Living faithfully in this world isn't always easy. At times, we all experience pressure to compromise our faith. Sometimes, it can feel easier to just go along with what is culturally accepted. Other times, we may fear the attention that standing firm in the convictions of our faith can bring. And even other times it can be especially difficult to maintain our resolve in the midst of daunting opposition. At these moments, the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and the fiery furnace can provide us with great hope, and encourage us to stand firm, trust God, and remain faithful even in the most challenging of circumstances. Join us as we dig into Daniel 3 to be reminded that in all situations, God is with us—helping, strengthening, and protecting us. When we trust God and refuse to compromise our faith, God is glorified.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What is a martyr?
- Do you know the stories of any Christian martyrs? How would you describe their faith and resolve?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Faith in the Fire](#)

READ [Daniel 3](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Jesus told us to let our light shine before others, so that they might see our good deeds and glorify God (Matthew 5:16). In segment 1, host Darrell Delaney explains that sometimes people ask us to compromise our faith by telling us to “shine” a little less brightly. Has this ever happened to you? If so, how did you respond? What did you learn?
- We are sometimes tempted to compromise our faith to be accepted, successful, safe, or so that we might live in greater abundance. Read the story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness in Luke 4:1-13. What did you learn from Jesus' integrity as he faced the devil's temptations?
- In segment 2, host Scott Hoezee wonders aloud whether or not God “tipped off” the three young men and let them know that he would save them. Why are we tempted to wonder this? Why might we find their resolve so impressive and challenging to believe? Does our reaction reveal anything about our own temptations and struggles?
- In Daniel 3:16-18, Azariah, Hananiah, and Mishael had to hold in tension the promise of God to save and protect the righteous with the reality that not all martyrs survive persecution with their earthly life. How does the Spirit help you to hold this same tension? Where would you like to strengthen your faith and resolve?
- When has God been with you in the fire (metaphorical or literal)? What has that experience taught you about God's steadfast faithfulness? What did it teach you about your faith, integrity, and resolve? Do you feel as though you glorified God through that time of adversity? Why or why not?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Matthew 16:24-26](#), [Matthew 5:13-16](#), [Exodus 14:13-14](#), [Psalm 37:39-40](#), [Isaiah 43:1-2](#), [1 John](#)

CONCLUSION

Do you know anyone who is going through a time of persecution right now? If so, spend time in prayer for them. Ask God to be with them just as he was with Mishaël, Azariah, and Hananiah. Reflect on how this person is glorifying God by witnessing to their faith and living with integrity. Offer a prayer of praise, then consider encouraging them with a note or message describing how you see them living out their testimony.

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