



Tuesday, November 20, 2007

The Power of Faith

SERMON THREE: **"Faith Under Pressure"**

Daniel 3: 16 – 18; 23 – 27 (NKJV)

- On the first Sunday of this month we said that over the next few weeks we would discuss **The Power of Faith** and how it impacts our life as well as our destiny.
- Tonight we will take a look at three wonderful young men whose lives were shaped by their faith.
- These three young men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, walked by faith under the most difficult circumstances.
- It is very easy to claim that you have faith when things are going well in your life.
- Most people seem to have lots of faith during good times, when there are few problems and little resistance.
- However, faith is like pure gold; it can only be verified when it's under pressure, after it has gone through the fire.
- Oftentimes, we do not realize how strong our faith is until we have gone through some things.
- The struggles that we thought were sent to destroy us, perhaps were sent to make us stronger.
- There are many examples throughout the Bible where great men and women of faith were challenged through the many circumstances they endured and were made stronger.
- In fact, Hebrews chapter eleven indicates to us that their faith was defined by their struggles and not necessarily by their successes.

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- Sometimes, our trials tell us more about our faith than our accomplishments.
- Our scriptural text shows us how the faith of these young men was defined by the trials they went through.
- The first thing we should note is the setting.
- They were not in familiar surroundings; they were in a strange land.
- Although they were in a strange place their faith remained consistent.
- They were given an opportunity to abandon their faith and save their lives, not just once, but twice. Now that's pressure!
- On both occasions they stood firm and would not back down.
- They refused to bow to the King's music and were thrown into the fiery furnace.
- This was an example of what the Prophet Zechariah refers to as "**faith being tried**".
- However, what happens next is an example of what the Apostle Paul refers to as "**faith being justified**".
- Not only did God deliver them out of the fire, but according to verse 30, He also promoted them in the province of Babylon (a strange land).
- When their faith was being tried these three young men stood up under pressure.
- As a result of their faithfulness under pressure they were blessed like they had never been blessed before.
- We too can enjoy the blessings of God in every aspect of our lives if we remain faithful to the Lord, even under pressure.
- The power of faith!