

Small Group Questions

Part 3: When The Bottom Drops Out, God Drops In

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Read

Daniel 3:1–27; Romans 8:29; and Mark 10:43

Reflect

King Nebuchadnezzar has a huge, gold image made and commands everyone to fall down and worship it. If they don't, they are to be thrown into a blazing furnace. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to bow down to an idol. The king, hearing of it, gives them a second chance to submit. When they again refuse, the three Israelites are thrown into the furnace. Not only do they remain completely unharmed, a fourth person is seen standing with them in the flames. What flames are you facing?

Pastor Greg highlights three lessons we can learn from the fiery furnace:

1. You can bow down to an image or step into your destiny, but you can't do both.
 - a. Has there been a time when you tried to live both a worldly life and live for God? What was the outcome?
 - b. What societal images might you be bowing down to and why do you think that is?
2. You need to be ready to answer the questions before the circumstances around you pose them.
 - a. Have you predetermined your loyalty to Christ regardless of what happens?
 - i. Is there anything that could turn your heart away from Christ? A bad diagnosis, loss, unanswered prayer? An unjust decision against you? Suffering for your faith?
 - b. The Enemy always provides second chances to give in to temptations. How do you plan to guard against them?
 - c. Think of a time where you wanted to quit. What kept you going?
 - d. Could you do what Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did? Do you have that much conviction?
3. It's not the temperature in the oven that matters, it's about who is in the fire with you.
 - a. Who do you think the fourth person in the fire was?
 - b. When in your life have you felt and experienced the presence of God the most?
 - i. How did God reveal his presence to you?
 - c. Do you believe that God will never leave or forsake you? Do you have a hard time saying: "He is here with me?" Explain.

Christian author Beth Moore offers three scenarios regarding facing a fiery trial. Which scenarios have you experienced?

1. We can be delivered from the fire. Our faith is built.
 - a. If you've experienced God's deliverance, how has it helped you to endure other trials?
2. We can be delivered through the fire. Our faith is refined.
 - a. In what ways have you let a trial define, rather than refine you?
3. We can be delivered by the fire. Our faith is perfected.
 - a. What if God doesn't rescue you from the fire in the way you want? Will you trust him?
4. As you pray this week, note whether your prayers lean toward "outcome" prayers.

Respond

What is your next step? Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you and hold you accountable in this?