

Faith Under Fire

Understanding is the reward of faith. Therefore seek not to understand that thou mayest believe, but believe that thou mayest understand. Augustine.

Faith Defined - Heb 11:1: "*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.* (NASU)

substance: hypostasis—a setting under

faith glorifies God through the fire

Daniel 3 – Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego

Question: What would cause 3 men, who had been removed from their nation, taken into captivity, left in a very vulnerable & possibly life-threatening state, forced to serve a foreign king, required to bow to an unknown idol or risk death...TO WHAT?

Dan 3:1-7: Reasons / excuses for which we compromise our faith:

- everyone is doing it – everyone bowing down
- bad things will happen if I don't bow / comply
- illogical – doesn't make sense
- doesn't appeal to my senses (sight, touch, smell, etc)

Answer: _____ —the substance of faith

Question: Why would these men defy the king, refuse his worship, rebel against his command?
(See Dan 3: 8-12, 16-18)

"Faith for my deliverance is not faith in God. Faith means, whether I am visibly delivered or not, I will stick to my belief that God is love. There are some things only learned in a fiery furnace."
Oswald Chambers in *Run Today's Race*.

Faith is necessary for: Salvation - Rom 10:9-10, to please God - Heb 11:6, to do the impossible - Mark 9:23

Answer: _____ – action
(faith without works is dead)

Question: What're the outcomes? Dan 3:19-25

Outcomes:

- obedience - The Hebrew men wouldn't obey the king to bow to the idol. They obeyed the king when he called them out of the fire (walking around w the son of God) – I'd rather be in a furnace w Jesus than outside the furnace without Jesus (vss 25-26)

*you're safer walking in a furnace w Jesus than outside the furnace going against the tide

Contrast – God interrupts "business as usual"

- Normal behavior - Dan 3:3
- Interruption - Dan 3:26-27

*focus shift – through God, 3 Hebrews shifted the focus of the nations leadership off of an idol and onto God

Answer: _____

Action Points:

- ① perceive – what areas in your life need faith?
- ② purpose – what actions in these areas will be faith based?
- ③ faith boost - check out mhmin.org and our blog

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