

Dan 3:16-18

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."

If you are like me, you have gone through hard times or maybe you are going through them right now.

Maybe you do not have enough money to pay your bills.

Maybe your spouse has told you that he or she wants a divorce.

Maybe there was a death in your family.

Maybe you lost your job.

Maybe you have been diagnosed with a critical illness and only have months to live.

Maybe your teenage daughter told you that she is pregnant.

We could go on and on, but whatever is going on in your life right now, have you given up on God?

Think of today's devotional verses. We all know the story of the fiery furnace and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. We know this as three men who refused to bow down to the false idol and were thrown in the fiery furnace and came out with their clothes unburned and they didn't even smell like smoke.

However, there are three little words that we tend to glance over, or completely overlook. What are those three words? They are in the beginning of verse 18.

"But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up." (underlined for emphasis)

"But if not" What if the Lord doesn't deliver you from the trial you may be facing today, will you give up and turn you back on Him?

"Well that's easy for you to say because you probably have had it made all your life."

You may be thinking.

There have been times in the past where every day I would look at all my bills and wonder, how will I ever pay these, and get food, and buy gas for my car so I can get to work, and on and on. One time, due to my own error, I had a check bounce for one of our utilities. All I could think was, will they turn off my utilities? I used to think that I need to just give up on this website and just go out and get a second job, what does it matter if I don't teach the Word of God (That was the flesh speaking and not my heart to teach God's word and share the gospel.)

Then the Lord reminded me of today's devotional verses and the question comes to mind, *"What if He doesn't provide, will I really give up?"*

If you are wondering what the answer is, you are reading the answer right now, because if I gave up, I would not be writing this right now. But what about you? Can you say that same thing? Read verse 18 again,

† *"But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."*

and then speak it out in faith that no matter what the Lord does or allows to happen in your life, that you will not bow down to the world and worship it. Rather you will bow down and worship our Creator who loves you so much that He gave His Son, Jesus for you. Jesus did not give up on you when He was on the cross; do not give up on Him now!

† **2 Corinthians 4:1-2 (NLT2)** *Therefore, since God in his mercy has given us this new way, we never give up. We reject all shameful deeds and underhanded methods. We don't try to trick anyone or distort the word of God. We tell the truth before God, and all who are honest know this.*

† **Galatians 6:9 (NLT2)** *So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.*