



February 16/17, 2019

Sermon Title: But If Not...!

by: Pastor Rock Dillaman

Scripture: Daniel 3:16-18 - Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

1. Pressure doesn't **change** who we are; it merely **reveals** who we are.
2. Faith responds to the **hollow** threats of unbelief with the rock-**solid** promises of God.
3. Faith believes God honors His **promises**. Presumption believes God honors its **desires**.
4. Faith is founded on the recognition **God** is **God** and everyone else is **not**!
5. Faith doesn't fear **created** beings; it trusts in the **Creator** of all being.
6. Faith **begins** and **increases** with memory.
7. Mature faith trusts in both God's **power** and His **wisdom**! It's confident He can *do* anything but it doesn't presume to always know what He *desires to do*!
8. Faith allows God to be God - not the **servant** of our **desires**.
9. The suggestion God will always do what we ask may honor His **power**, but it does so at the expense of His **wisdom**!
10. Our **sincere** requests may be vetoed by God's **wise** refusals.
11. Mature faith **trusts** God no matter **what** it experiences.

Growth Group Questions

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WARM-UPS

1. In what ways did you see God show up in your life this past week?
2. Have you ever responded or reacted “out of character” when under severe pressure or strain? Were you surprised by your reaction? What did it reveal to you about yourself?



DISCUSSION

1. What did you find most challenging, helpful, or troubling in the sermon today and why?
2. Have you prayed any “but if not!” prayers lately? If so, share the circumstances.
3. What spiritual *memories* can you recall that have helped you to exercise and increase your faith?
4. Share about a time when you asked God for something in “Jesus name” but you later discovered your request was contrary to God’s will.
5. Share about a time when God rewarded you for your faith.

IN THE WORD

Read some of the passages below and discuss any insights into today’s message.

- Hebrews 11:6
- Psalm 86:8
- Luke 22:42

PRACTICE

- Spend some time asking God if you’ve been presumptuous in your times of prayer rather than praying in faith. What do you hear Him saying? In what ways should you pray differently?
- Spend some time researching and looking up some of God’s promises in scripture. Write down and memorize one or two that you feel God is speaking to you.