



## Sermon Title: The Furnace of Decision

by: Pastor Rock Dillaman

**Scripture:** Daniel 3:24-27 - Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astounded and stood up in haste; he said to his high officials, “Was it not three men we cast bound into the midst of the fire?” They replied to the king, “Certainly, O king.” He said, “Look! I see four men loosed *and* walking *about* in the midst of the fire without harm, and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of *the* gods!” Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the furnace of blazing fire; he responded and said, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, come out, you servants of the Most High God, and come here!” Then Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego came out of the midst of the fire. The satraps, the prefects, the governors and the king’s high officials gathered around *and* saw in regard to these men that the fire had no effect on the bodies of these men nor was the hair of their head singed, nor were their trousers damaged, nor had the smell of fire *even* come upon them.

1. **Confident** faith can make **confident** unbelief rethink its **confidence**!
2. When unbelief feels **threatened** it often seeks to **reassure** itself.
3. Those who seek to deny God often find their **denials** set them up for new **demonstrations** of His power.
4. The world cannot **destroy** the **identity** of God’s people.
5. The God who can deliver His people **from** the fire sometimes chooses to deliver them **in** the fire.
6. The most **powerful** testimonies are forged **in** the furnace!
7. When God’s people are under attack, the **decision** to remain faithful is often harder than the **consequences** of remaining faithful!
8. Faith is strengthened more by our **decisions** than by the **consequences** of those decisions.
9. God is the great **deliverer**, but He won’t **deliver** us from the need to make hard decisions, because that’s where faith is forged.

## Growth Group Questions

### Sermon Title: The Furnace of Decision

#### WARM-UPS

1. Are you an “optimist” or a “pessimist?” Explain.
2. Why do you think the world hates Jesus? In what ways has He offended or threatened our culture?

#### DISCUSSION

1. What did you find most challenging, helpful, or troubling in the sermon today and why?
2. Do you ever feel like you’re targeted or forced to be silent due to your faith in Jesus? If so, how are you dealing with that?
3. How confident are you in your “identity” as a child of God? Do you ever think about or question how God truly feels about you? Explain.
4. Do you find yourself currently in the “furnace of decision?” If so, what are your options and perceived outcomes? Explain.

#### IN THE WORD

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

- Romans 10:14-15
- Acts 9:15-16
- John 15:18

#### PRACTICE

- Spend some time with God evaluating your kingdom witness in the face of cultural pressures. Have you become fearful or silent? What do you hear God saying and how should you respond?
- As the 3 young men provided for Nebuchadnezzar by refusing to bow, are there people in your life right now that might benefit from a more confident, uncompromised kingdom witness from you? Who are those people and what do you need to do? Write down some practical action steps and ask the Holy Spirit to help you follow through.

