

LIGHT IN DARKNESS
Week 3: Steadfast Faith
Daniel 3

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Sometimes we encounter people who have such great faith that we cannot help but admire them.
- B. How deep is your faith in the God of heaven? Would you categorize yourself as someone with a steadfast faith?
- C. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego are great examples of what it means to be a light in darkness.

DANIEL'S FRIENDS FACED THE ULTIMATE TEST OF THEIR FAITH (vs. 1-6)

- A. Nebuchadnezzar built an idol that was over 90 feet tall and 9 feet wide (v. 1).
- B. Nebuchadnezzar commanded everyone to bow down and worship his golden image (vs. 4-5).
- C. Nebuchadnezzar promised severe consequences for those who chose not to worship his image (v. 6).

DANIEL'S FRIENDS DEMONSTRATED A STEADFAST FAITH IN THE MIDST OF A STRONG FIRE (vs. 7-18).

- A. They either had to disobey the Lord or disobey the king (Exo. 20:1-5; Isa. 43:10-13; Jer. 29:22).
- B. Even though they were offered a second chance to comply, they refused to turn their backs on their faith.
- C. The faith of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego was not dependent on what God would do but on who He was.

DANIEL'S FRIENDS TEACH US THREE THINGS ABOUT STEADFAST FAITH:

- A. Steadfast faith stands up when others bow down.
 - 1. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego chose to stand up in faith when everyone else chose to bow down in fear (v. 16).
 - 2. We should never be ashamed of the Gospel (Rom. 1:16).
 - 3. If we choose to fit in with the world, we make ourselves an enemy of God (Jam. 4:4).
- B. Steadfast faith believes God is able to do the impossible.
 - 1. These men believed God had the power to deliver them from what looked like an impossible situation (v. 17).
 - 2. Nothing is too hard for the Lord (Jer. 32:17; 27; Lk. 1:37; Mk. 10:27).
 - 3. When we speak of God, do we speak of Him as someone who has all power and control?
- C. Steadfast faith believes God is still God no matter the outcome.
 - 1. They didn't know if God was going to save them or not and they didn't care. They had faith in God (v. 18).
 - 2. Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him (Job 13:15).
 - 3. Our God is able but even if he doesn't... we will still trust in Him (Heb. 11:35-38).

CONCLUSION:

- A. The steadfast faith of these three young men is a clear picture of what total surrender to the Lord looks like.
- B. Does our faith give a clear picture of total surrender to the Lord?
- C. If we want to be a light in the darkness around us, we must choose to live with a steadfast faith in the midst of a strong fire.