

**“The Power of a Worshiping People—  
Endurance in the Fire”  
Daniel 3**

**Central Thought:** *When we worship God in our greatest trials, He enables us to stand up in the fire for His glory.*

**Context**

- The king organizes a d\_\_\_\_\_ for all to bow to the image of himself.
- Daniel and his friends refuse to bow. vv.16-18
  - They do not d\_\_\_\_\_ themselves.
  - They stand firm in God’s p\_\_\_\_\_ to save them.
  - They stand firm in God’s a\_\_\_\_\_ not to save them.
  - Their act of worship is to offer their lives as l\_\_\_\_\_ sacrifices. Ro.12:1
- The f\_\_\_\_\_ men are u\_\_\_\_\_ by the flames that killed the king’s soldiers.

**1. One power of a worshiping people is endurance in the fire.**

- Sometimes we are called by God to e\_\_\_\_\_ the fire. 1 Pe.2:21; He.11:32-40
- A God-connected life e\_\_\_\_\_ us to endure the fire. 1Co.10:13; Ep.6:13

**2. Story principles for enduring in the fire**

- v.16—Do not d\_\_\_\_\_ yourself.
- v.17—Stand in t\_\_\_\_\_, not feelings.
- v.17—Cling to what you u\_\_\_\_\_.
- v.18—Offer suffering to Jesus as a s\_\_\_\_\_.
- v.18—A God-disconnected life is w\_\_\_\_\_ than suffering or death.
- v.18—There is a Kingdom that has priority o\_\_\_\_\_ every other kingdom.

**3. Enduring the fire of suffering and evil—fixing our eyes on Jesus.**

- Jesus is Lord. Ps.110:1; Ph.2:8
- Jesus joins us in our suffering. Ps.23:4; 2 Co.1:3-5
- Suffering shows likeness to Jesus. Jn.15:18; 1 Pt.2:21; 4:12-19
- Jesus alone gives life; no one can take it. Jn.1:4; 1Jn.5:11-12
- Suffering was punishment for Jesus so that it will never be for me. Hebrews 12:2-3
- Jesus has conquered death as a feared enemy. 1Co.15:26; Co.2:14

**4. Enduring the fire of godless cultures—fixing our eyes on Jesus.**

- Discern the kingdoms in all things. Jn.18:36; He.11:13; 1Jn.2:15-17
- Connect all of life to God and His purposes. Ps.139:16; Je.29:11
- Throw off anything that cannot be God-connected. He.12:1
- Be willing to be excluded. Lk.21:17

**5. Enduring the fire of unjust authorities—fixing our eyes on Jesus.**

- Submit to earthly authorities as to Christ. Ep.6:5; 1 Pt.2:13-17
- Obey by taking the punishment for disobedience. Ph.2:8
- Flee if you can to preserve life. Mk.13:13-15
- Defend the defenseless with your life. Jn.15:13
- Never compromise faith in Christ. Mt.10:32-33; He.4:14
- Respond not against authority, but for Christ. Is.53:7; 1 Pt.2:23
- Do not respond in fear. 1Pt.3:14; 1Jn.4:19
- Pray for those who persecute you. Mt.5:11-12, 44
- Make sure that your actions communicate Jesus to those who observe you. Mt.5:16; 1 Peter 2:12

**Word bank:** *authority, dedication, defend, defend, endure, empowers, four, living, over, power, sacrifice, truth, understand, unharmed, worse*

**Questions for home groups / meditation**

- What fires have I been through in the past and what have I learned from them?
- What are the “fires” in my life right now?
- Have I allowed any of the fires that I have been through to change my view of Who God is?
- What might I value above the glory of God?
- Am I willing to give up my life? Does God have permission to take my life?
- In which kingdom do I live as a true citizen?