

STAYING COOL WHEN THINGS GET HOT

DANIEL 3 & JAMES 1

MAIN TAKEAWAY

There are different kinds of trials and tests in the life of the Christian: the devil tempts us to *destroy* our faith, but God tests us to *develop* our faith. You are not alone in your hardship!

INTRODUCTION

Share about a time when you experienced an unexpected fire. How did you react?

Why shouldn't we be surprised by fiery trials? How can we respond (1 Peter 4:12-16)?

UNDERSTANDING

READ DANIEL 3:8-30

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood up for what was right, even at the risk of losing their lives. When everyone else bowed, what caused them to stand for their faith? What are some other examples from the Bible or church history?

They made a stand in a small area. What was the "test before the test," and how did it impact their future courage and obedience (Daniel 1:8-20)?

Everyone worships. It's not a question of whether we worship—it's *who* or *what* we worship. How is this truth displayed in this story? How is it evident today? Why will you end up serving whom you worship?

In this Christophany, Jesus walked with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego through the fiery furnace. How does this reveal the way in which the Lord is with us in trials, each step of the way (Psalm 23:3-4; Isaiah 43:1-2)?

They were not sure they would survive, but they were sure of God’s promises—either God would preserve them or He’d be waiting on the other side. Why can we have confidence in God’s promises? How can we live this way (Philippians 1:19-23)?

READ JAMES 1:2-4

How is perseverance in trials like going to the gym (1 Timothy 4:7-8)?

How do trials take our faith from the realm of *theory* to *reality*?

Pastor Greg said, “A faith that cannot be *tested* is a faith that cannot be *trusted*.” If you want to grow spiritually, why must “iron” enter your soul (Psalm 105:16-19)?

Pastor Greg explained, “The very thing you want *out* of your life may be the thing you need *in* your life.” How does this reveal the way in which God might use trials for our growth and His glory? How does this inform ways we can pray?

APPLICATION

Pastor Greg said, “The stand you make today will determine what kind of stand you will make tomorrow.” In what ways do you face peer pressure? What are some small steps of obedience in your life that can lead to a greater stand for faith?

Instead of a moment of sin leading to a lifetime of regret, how can you keep the perspective that a moment spent worshiping God can lead to a lifetime of service?

How did this message remind you of God’s presence and promises—that Jesus is with you each step of the way (Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5-6)?

PRAYER

Give thanks that Jesus is always with you. Pray for your faith to be developed as God walks with you through every fiery trial. Ask for strength and courage to make a stand for the Lord in ordinary and extraordinary acts of obedience.