

ACTIVE AND ULTIMATE FAITH  
IN GOD

DAN.3: 17, and 18.

Dean Farrar of England placed this verse by the side of two other verses and said that the three were the greatest verses in the Bible.

The first was a verse spoken by Job a man of the long ago. Job was a man, who without warning, was bereft of all the things that a human heart holds dear, and this suddenly. His great riches swept away over night, his sons and daughters all killed in a storm, and his good health taken from him. As he sat on a pile of ashes lamenting his fate his wife came along and said, "Curse God and die." Then Job gives that great verse that Farrar puts first... "Though He slay me yet will I trust in Him."

The second verse is this one we have read in Daniel.... "Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us...and He will deliver us out of thine hand..Oh king. But if not, be it known unto thee Oh king, that we will not serve thy Gods."

The third, according to Dean Farrar, is one spoken by our Lord in His darkest hour of trial there in the Garden... "Oh my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me nevertheless, not as I will but as thou wilt."

THESE ARE VERSES THAT WE WILL DO WELL TO KEEP IN OUR MEMORIES.

Some six hundred years before Christ there lived a great conqueror named Nebuchadnezzar. In the plains of Dura in the province of Babylon he had erected an image, we would call it a memorial, to commemorate his world wide victories. It was 90 X 9 X 9 ft. This was dedicated to his heathen god. And all people were instructed that whenever they were any where near the image and a certain kind of music sounded they were to bow down and worship his god.

There were three Jewish youths that he had captured when he invaded Judah. They were retained in his palace and be

came very smart and were given high positions of authority. Their Jewish names were taken from them and they were given what we would call nick names. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They were governing three of the provinces, of the Babylonian Empire.

There was jealousy amongst Babylonians and they came to Nebuchadnezzar and said, "you have three Jews here who do not bow down and worship your god when the music is sounded. He had them brought before him and said to them "Now after this if you will bow down to my god when the music is sounded I will forget the past but if you fail in this I will have you immediately thrown into a fiery furnace heated seven times hot.

They replied, "Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us. But if he does not see fit to do so, oh king, we still will not worship your gods."

This story is the story of the human race to day..it is, as some one said, as new as this morning's news paper."

These young men had high places of honor and were grateful for such positions...they liked it just as you like yours...what were they to do? They were tempted, of course, to hold their jobs. But their decision gave the lie to that cheap philosophy we hear on the streets that "We have to live." or the other that says, "When in Rome live as Rome lives."

These three men at whose names we have laughed can give us some fine lessons:

1. Courage...do we know what that means? Sam Davis of Tenn. had such a high sense of duty that when offered release if he would tell who gave him certain papers he chose to die rather than to be disloyal to a comrade. His last words were these, "If I had a thousand lives I would lose them all before I would betray my friends."
2. Faith...SUCH FAITH. Yes Nebuchadnezzar, you are the greatest monarch on earth. You believe that your god gave you the victories BUT we serve a greater God than yours and we will never lose faith in Him. **LET US REMEMBER** God is greater than that He made it. **THEY WENT TO THE FURNACE. DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD?** These were delivered

It was easy to believe in a God that delivered them, But here is the question "our God is able to deliver us but what if he does not do it? Is He still your God?"

There were men greater than these that God did not deliver:

1. Moses worked a life time to realize a dream..God said "Moses I can't let you have it." do
2. Where was God when Isaaah was sawn asunder
3. Jesus on the Cross.

"Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us" but if he sees fit not to give us what we wanted, what then? Is He still your God?

A woman of culture, wealth, and social popularity came to a great prescher in Birmingham Alabama one day and said to him, "Dr. I have had a great loss in the last year and since then I have lost faith in God." He replied as gently as he could and said, "I fear, dear lady that you did not have much faith to lose."

~~It does not take faith in God if every time you are placed~~

It does not take faith in God if every time you are placed in a fiery furnace or any other horriable situation God miraculously delivers you. If he does not give your request do you become faithless and cynical, lonely and embittered?

If He does not deliver He will be with you. P.S. 23

He will not test you with more than you can bear.Paul's thorn in the flesh.

Another thing God does not send these heartaches and losses. You ask why does He not prevent them? I do not know but I do know that He can use them after they come to make you a more sympathetic person.

"Our God is able to deliver us but if He does not we will will not serve yours...he will still be our God in the dark as well as in the light.

