ON FIRE FOR GOD

Daniel 3:1-2, 5-6, 19-20, 24-25, 27b-28a

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# INTRODUCTION

Have you ever been persecuted because of your faith in Jesus Christ? Should a Christian expect to be persecuted? Paul wrote to Timothy, “In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (2 Timothy 3:12). Korean history verifies that Paul was right. Many missionaries suffered persecution and martyrdom while trying to share the Gospel here in Korea. Many Koreans have also suffered persecution and martyrdom because of their faith in Jesus Christ.

 In our text, we see three young men who were persecuted because of their faith.

## I. ON FIRE FOR GOD

1. They believed God could **deliver** them in every circumstance.

(1) They were faithful **followers** of God.

(2) They were faithful in spite of the **danger**.

(3) They were fearless because of the **greatness** of their God.

1. They believed God **deserved** faithfulness in every circumstance.

(1) They believed that loyalty to God transcends loyalty to **man**.

(2) They believed that loyalty to God transcends concerns for **safety**.

(3) They believed that loyalty to God is better than living in **fear**.

 *These young men believed that faithfulness to God was important in all of life’s*

*circumstances, regardless of the consequences. What about you? Do you agree? Even*

*if it means persecution? Jail? A fiery furnace? Death?*

# II. IN FIRE FOR GOD

1. They were tried, tied, and **fried** for God.

(1) They **refused** to bow before false gods (no Shinto shrine, no Buddhist temple).

(2) They **remained** true to God regardless of government and political pressure.

(3) They **retained** their faith and paid the penalty for doing so.

1. They were NOT stir-fried, singed, scorched, or smelly from the **fire**.

(1) The burning ropes **disappeared** and gave them freedom.

(2) The burning flames **danced** harmlessly around them.

(3) The burning flames revealed a **heavenly** **being** walking in the fire with them.

 *Was this angelic figure possibly Jesus? We cannot be sure, but that is one possibility.*

Regardless, the figure was the representative of God, even if it was not God Himself. The heathen king, Nebuchadnezzar, saw this being and praised God—OUR God!

**CONCLUSION**

Reflecting upon this event, the writer of Hebrews says that some saints were miraculously delivered when God “quenched the fury of the flames”; but he also reminds us that some were “stoned,” “sawed in two,” and “put to death by the sword” (see Hebrews 11:32-38). You see, our God will walk through the fire with us. He will not leave us to face the struggles of life alone. He sometimes chooses to walk out of the fire with us—miraculously delivering the body from death. Oftentimes, however, He chooses to walk through the fire with us—miraculously delivering the spirit to Heaven. Either way, we know this comforting fact: God will walk through the fire with us, never leaving or forsaking us.

 **Illustration** of a young man who told others about Jesus