“FIGHT BACK”
SERIES

“WHEN PRESSURE HITS”

WEEK 1

WORD

“16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. 18 But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

Daniel 3:16-18
(Read Daniel 3 for context)

SPARKS

- Have you ever felt pressured to do something you knew was wrong just to fit in? What did you do?
- Have you ever been in a difficult situation where you had to wait and be patient? How did you handle it?
- Have you ever worried about how something would turn out, but things ended up differently than you expected?

Pressure is part of life. Sometimes we feel pressured to fit in, follow what everyone else is doing, or compromise our convictions just to avoid criticism, rejection, or trouble. In those moments, obeying God may not be the easiest choice.
In Daniel 3, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego faced a life-threatening decision: bow down to King Nebuchadnezzar's golden image or remain faithful to God and face the fiery furnace. They chose to stand firm, even when they did not know how God would deliver them.
As Christians, we also face battles against Satan, our own sinful desires, and the influences of the world (Ephesians 2:1–2; Galatians 5:17). But we do not have to give in to pressure. We can choose to remain loyal to God, trust Him to sustain us, and believe that He can turn our situation around.
When pressure hits, our response should be clear: I will not bow. God will sustain me. God can turn it around.

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1. DO NOT BOW.

Daniel 3:16-18
‘16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, ‘O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 If this be so, ***our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand,*** *O king. 18* ***But if not,*** *be it known to you, O king, that* ***we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”***

1

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow to the golden image, even when they were threatened with death. Their obedience did not depend on whether God would rescue them. They trusted Him regardless of the outcome. Standing firm means choosing loyalty to God over the approval of people, the desire to fit in, or the fear of consequences. We may not always be pressured to bow before an idol, but we can face pressure to compromise our values, hide our faith, or participate in something we know displeases God. Where do you feel pressured to compromise your faith?

2. EXPECT GOD TO SUSTAIN YOU.

Daniel 3:24-25
‘24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, ‘Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?” They answered and said to the king, ‘True, O king.”25 He answered and said, ***‘But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt;*** *and the appearance of t****he fourth is like a son of the gods.****”*

2

When the king looked into the furnace, he saw four men walking unharmed instead of three men being consumed by the fire. God did not prevent them from entering the furnace, but He met them in the middle of it. Sometimes we expect God to prove His faithfulness by removing every difficulty immediately. But God can also sustain us while we are still going through the trial. Faith helps us see our circumstances through the truth of who God is, rather than judging His faithfulness only by what we can see. How can you trust God when your situation doesn't change?

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3. GOD CAN TURN IT AROUND.

Daniel 3:29-30
‘29 Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks ***anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn*** *limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, f****or there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way.***
30 ***Then the king promoted*** *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.”*

3

The men who were threatened with death were ultimately honored, and the king publicly acknowledged the power of their God. What was intended to destroy them became an occasion for God's glory to be revealed.
We may not know how God will work in our situation. He may change our circumstances, open an unexpected door, give us strength to endure, or accomplish something we could not have anticipated. Standing firm means trusting God without demanding that He work according to our timetable or expectations.
God's faithfulness does not mean every situation will end exactly as we hope. It means we can trust Him with the outcome and remain faithful to Him whatever happens. What situation do you need to trust God with today?

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LIVE IT!

- Do not hide your Christian convictions out of fear of being judged or misunderstood.
- When answers are delayed, continue to trust God even when circumstances do not change as quickly as you hoped.
- Stay open to how God may use a difficult experience to grow your faith or help someone else.

PRAYER

- Confess the times we have allowed fear of people or the desire for approval to influence our choices.
- Thank God that we can depend on Him even when our problems have not yet been resolved.
- Ask God to help us surrender our expectations and trust Him with the outcome.

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