

## Hall of Faith: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

Daniel 3 ❖ Hebrews 11:34a

*“Gimme that old-time religion,  
Gimme that old-time religion,  
Gimme that old-time religion,  
It’s good enough for me.*

*It was tried in the fiery furnace ...”*

(“Gimme That Old-Time Religion,” Spiritual, 1873)

### “But if not”

Do you know what happened at Dunkirk in June 1940?

Do you know “the story behind the story” of Dunkirk?

“Our God whom we serve is **able** to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, O King. *But if not*, be it known unto thee, O King, that we will not serve thy **gods**, nor worship the golden **image** which thou hast set up” (Daniel 3:17-18 KJV).

### Marching to the Tune of A Different Drummer

“Your Majesty,” said some astrologers, “there are some **Jews** whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon - Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego - who pay **no** attention to you. They neither serve **you** nor worship the **image** of gold you have set up” (Daniel 3:8, 12).

What does it mean to be “in the world but not of the world”?

“I wanna be different, I wanna be **changed**,

’Til all of **me** is gone and all that remains

Is a fire so bright the whole world can see

That there’s something different,

So come and be different in **me.**”

(“Different,” Tyler and Lee, 2017)

## Fiery Furnaces

“Nebuchadnezzar ordered the furnace heated **seven** times **hotter** than usual” (Daniel 3:19).

The King said, “Look! I see **four** men **walking** around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods” (Daniel 3:25).

“They saw that the fire had not harmed their **bodies**, nor was a hair of their heads **singed**; their robes were not **scorched**, and their was no **smell** of fire on them” (Daniel 3:27).

The author of Hebrews says Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego “through **faith** quenched the fury of the flames” (11:34a).

What is the fieriest test you’ve been through? How did you come out?

### Compromises vs. Convictions

**Nebuchadnezzar** said, “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent His angel and rescued His servants! They **trusted** in Him and **defied** the King’s command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God” (Daniel 3:28).

In what areas of your life do you feel pressured to compromise your convictions?

In what areas of your life is God calling you to take a stand?

### Takeaway

Sometimes the Lord doesn’t put out the **fire**, but **endures** it with us.

Is our faith strong enough to say, “But if not”?