

## **THE POWER AND SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD**

*"King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and He will deliver us from your Majesty's hand. But even if He does not, we want you to know, your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."*

*- Daniel 3:16-18*

### **REFLECTION**

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were given the choice to either worship the image of gold or to be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. They made a firm and clear decision that they would worship no other gods because they knew God was able to save them from the furnace (v.16-18). They had complete faith in God to do a miracle for them. Even if God were not to rescue them, they would not waver in their decision to worship God alone. This was because their decision was not based on what God could do for them, but because of who God is. They had complete trust in God that He would work things out for the best. There is no conflict here, these three friends knew both the power and sovereignty of God and hence were able to stick to their decision to worship God regardless of the outcome. God is God when he did miracles. God is still God even if He didn't do the miracles they hoped for.

Are you facing tough decisions where you have to choose between God or "idols" in your life? What is holding you back from choosing God and luring you towards those "idols"? Ask our Abba Father to give you strength to remain faithful to Him. You may want to talk to a Godly friend and pray together. Was there a time when you felt that God didn't answer or say "No" to your prayers? What was the experience like? Have you told God how that matter affected you? If you have not, would you be bold and talk to God about your feelings and thoughts? Know that "Yes", "Wait" and "No" can be His answers to our prayers according to His good purpose and will. We only need to remain steadfast and faithful to Him.

### **PRAYER**

*Abba Father, Thank You for the privilege that we can ask for great things in the name of Jesus my Lord. Align my desires with Yours as I grow in my knowledge of You, Your power and Your sovereignty. Let me serve and worship You in times of blessings and in trials because You are my God and I trust You. Amen.*

### **SUPPLICATION**

- Are you finding it a challenge in choosing to follow after God? Ask God to grant you the will and strength to remain steadfast and faithful to Him. Do you find it hard to let go of those "idols" in your life? Tell God honestly about your struggles and let Him work in your desires, will and life. In this season of Lent, surrender your life and everything in it once again to God. Give God the "permission" to work in you what He desires according to His good purpose and way.
- Are you seeking the Lord for certain miracles? What may God be saying about these desires? By all means do ask of God - but pray for an alignment between your desires and God's will. "Not my will, but Yours be done." Recall a time when God did answer your prayer in an unexpected manner. Or perhaps, God didn't answer according to what you hoped for. What was the experience like for you? Commit your experiences, rejoicing, thanksgiving and disappointments to God. Would you know of someone with such similar experience whom you can encourage? Pray for divine opportunity to meet and share.
- Pray for the Church-at-large where believers are constantly presented with various forms of "idols" to bow down to. Pray that God would grant us all alertness and discernment in our spirit to recognize such deceptions. Pray that God would also grant us all the strength and will to stand firm and not allow these "idols" to take hold of our desires and lives. Pray that we would make the right choices in life where God alone will be glorified.
- Pray for your family members and friends who are "ensnared" by the "idols" in their lives and they can't recognize it or have the will or ability to get out of the grasp of these idols. Pray for God to intervene in their lives and to set them free from the control of these "idols" and the enemy behind such evil schemes. *"So if the Son set you free, you will be free indeed."* Jn.8:36

*The purpose for trials may not always be understood, but God simply ask His children to trust Him - even when it is not easy.*

*Stephen R. Miller*

***If you need any prayer or pastoral care support, kindly contact the pastoral care team via:***

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