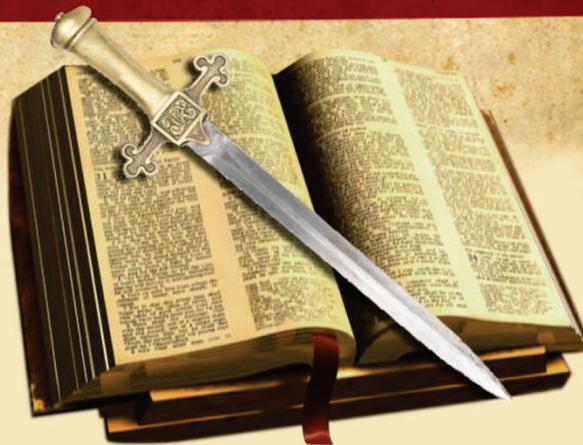


Setting Your Heart

— on the —

Kingdom



DANIEL

The Fire Walkers

(The Principles of Faith, Trust and Deliverance)

Daniel 3

The king stood to his feet in utter amazement. His countenance changed from a sadistic grimace to astonished bewilderment. Had he not ordered the furnace to be heated seven times hotter than usual? Had Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego not been bound and thrown into the midst of the blazing fire? What then was he seeing? **Four** men, instead of three, walking about, loosed and without harm! In a flash, his mind recalled his brash words, “*What god is there who can deliver you out of my hands?*” Then he remembered the reply of the three condemned Hebrews, “*Our God is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire, but even if He does not, we are not going to serve your gods!*” Nebuchadnezzar was a pompous and deluded pagan king, but he couldn’t deny such a breathtaking display of God’s power. Neither could he ignore that those who trust in the God of heaven, even in the face of death, are delivered.

Faith isn’t blindly hoping that some invisible force, called “God” will rescue you. It’s not stepping out on an emotional impulse that denies present circumstances. ***True faith is a belief system based on a genuine encounter with the Living God.*** It’s an inner knowing divinely deposited within the believing heart. It sees beyond the temporal realm to a greater reality...God! Faith doesn’t just rebuke the flames...it walks through them! It doesn’t just trust in deliverance, but in the Deliverer! ***Faith is a commitment to God and His Kingdom...whether He helps you or not!***

Who then are these “Fire Walkers?” They are those who refuse to bow to the demands of unethical business practices...even if it costs them their jobs (*Ps. 15:4*). They are people who seek another’s good...even if they must decrease (*John 3:30*). They fear God more than what men can do to them (*Matt. 10:28*). They pray for their persecutors (*Matt. 5:43-46; Luke 23:33-34*). They are committed Christians like you and me who trust God more than their own hearts. And if we end up in the fire, we know there will be the “fourth Man” with us...and nothing will be burned but the ropes of our bondage. ***In God’s Kingdom, what He doesn’t deliver you from, He’ll deliver you through (Is. 43:2)!***

Next: *The Kingdom of God in Hosea...Beyond Human Remedy*

