

## **Weekly Devotions: THE REFINING FIRE OF TRIALS 17**

### **Would You Pay the Price to be Faithful?**

There is a price to pay to be faithful to God and His word, for example, stand up for what the bible teaches about homosexuality (Rom. 1: 26-27) and we will be ridiculed. Tell people that Jesus is the only way to God (John 14: 6) and we will be accused of being intolerant.

Throughout the bible, to be faithful witnesses for Christ, God's people must be ready to make sacrifices and face opposition. Paul told Timothy: "Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and imposters will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived." (2 Tim 3:12-13) We need to ask ourselves honestly, when our faithfulness is tested; "Will I choose to do what God expects or what the world expects of me? Am I ready to obey God's word at all costs? Will I bow to Him only and not to any other?"

### **Read Daniel 3**

The 3 Hebrews were ready to die to remain faithful to God. The price of their faithfulness is death; compromise, they live; remain faithful to God, they die. That was their choice. They did not waver at all in their commitment because they were clear who they should be loyal to. Their first and foremost loyalty was to God who had forbidden His people to bow to any graven image (Exodus 20: 3-4).

3 things gave them the resolve to stand firm in this test of their faithfulness. First, they knew that God was more powerful than the earthly king and able to save them if He chose to. Second, they chose to obey God's expectations rather than the demands of man. They knew the Scriptures and accepted God's word as having ultimate authority over their lives. Finally, they were ready to die for their convictions. Many of us may know God is all-powerful and His word has authority over our lives but are we ready to pay the price of faithfulness to Him and His word?

### *Questions to Ponder*

1. What was the response of the 3 Hebrews when ordered by the king to bow to the image (16-18)? What price were they ready to pay for their commitment to God? What does it mean for you to remain faithful to God in your place of work and study, in your social circle and in your home? What sacrifices are you ready to make to be faithful?
2. What happened to the 3 Hebrews when they were in the furnace and how did the king respond as a result (21-30)? Why is it important for you to be faithful to God and how can your faithfulness lead others to praise Him?