



Homes of H.O.P.E. Prayer and Study Guide #18
Based on sermon: “No Fear . . . of Walking Alone”
Preached May 16, 2009

1. Read Genesis 11:1-4 and then Daniel 3:1-15. Discuss the similarities in those who built the tower of Babel and Nebuchadnezzar. Note that the “plain of Shinar” is “Babylonia.” It is likely that the gold image was erected in roughly the same location as the Genesis tower.
2. Eight different times (KJV has 10) Daniel 3 refers to the image that Nebuchadnezzar “set up.” See if you can find all recurrences of this phrase. Circle them and contrast with Dan. 2:44. What is Daniel trying to tell us about Nebuchadnezzar by emphasizing this phrase so many times?
3. Discuss the following statements: *“When the time of crisis passes, people forget God. People don’t only abandon God when their prayers go unanswered. They also abandon Him when their prayers are answered. And often, the very thing they prayed for becomes an idol that takes their affection and attention away from the God who gave them the blessing.”*

Can you share examples of the above?

4. The image was likely made of clay brick and overlaid with gold—a common idol-making technique. Compare with Daniel 2:41, 42 and discuss the implications of the image being made of clay.
5. The image was also 60 cubits high by 6 cubits wide (90 feet by 9 feet). The number 6 in the Bible is the number of man. Compare with Revelation 13:18. (You may want to read 11-18 for context.) Is this significant? How so?
6. Compare Deut. 32:39 with Nebuchadnezzar’s claim in Dan. 3:15—especially the last sentence. What is Nebuchadnezzar claiming by making this statement? Who does he think he is? Isaiah 14:13, 14 is applied to Lucifer and the attitude of his heart toward God. How is attitude seen in Nebuchadnezzar (and in Genesis 11 and Revelation 13)?
7. Read the response of the three Hebrews in Dan. 3:16, 17. Why do they refuse to defend themselves? Compare with Luke 21:14, 15. Discuss this statement: *“Those who stand up for God should never stoop down to the level of their challengers.”* Agree or disagree? Explain.
8. Read verse 18. Define “**if not**” faith. “This is a faith that is not dependant on outcome, it is dependant on principle. ‘The three men’s loyalty to God does not depend on the certainty of deliverance nor on God’s response to the danger. Their bold answer is based on principle regardless of the consequences.’”
9. Discuss the following: The actions of the officials (those who bowed to the image) can truly be described as “legalism”—an act of obedience as a precondition of salvation. The Hebrews’ obedience to the first two commandments of God can never be seen as legalism. Why not? Because the commandments are introduced by a statement of God’s saving act (“I am the Lord Your God, who *brought you out* of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.” Ex. 20:2). Obedience to

the commands to follow is a **result**, not a precondition to deliverance. “Faithfulness to that commandment is, therefore, a response to grace already experienced; divine deliverance can never be a condition to faithful conduct.” Otherwise, deliverance would be by works.

If you want to live without fear, you must know that you are already delivered. Explain the spiritual meaning of this statement.

10. Discuss the following: “For true Christians, obedience is never legalism.” Agree or disagree? Explain. *We keep the commandments not as formal ritual to secure God’s favor, but as a loving response to the favor He’s already given us in His Son, Jesus Christ.* We are always and only responders to grace already given. What are the implications of being “responders to grace already given”? How does this change or impact your own walk with God?

11. If the furnace is enough to change your faith, you agree with Nebuchadnezzar that **God is not able!** Is that true or not? Talk it out and support your answer. Give examples.

12. How did the Hebrews’ victory over the “fork” in Daniel chapter one help prepare them for victory over the furnace in Daniel 3? What does the incident over diet in chapter one teach us about fidelity and integrity? Do you agree that “our ability to face the extraordinary depends on how we’ve faced the ordinary”? Explain.

13. Read verses 19-23. Are believers in Jesus always spared fiery trials?

14. Read verses 24, 25. Discuss what the following statement means to you personally: “To save others from the fire, the God of love must Himself pass through it.”

15. What if the Hebrews had perished in the flames? Would that have ruined any testimony? Why or why not?

16. “The key to living with No Fear is faith not miracles.” Agree or disagree? Support your answer.

17. What has God said to you personally through this story? Conclude by reading Isa. 43:1, 2.