

INTRODUCTION 引言

Loyalty is an interesting sentiment. People can be loyal to certain brand of products, their family or country. My first job out of school was to work in a lab. There were two Korean guys in my team. One of them loves his home country so much that he drove a Korean car. In the early 90's when Korea started selling automobiles in U.S., their cars were not quite dependable. That coworker might have spent a lot of time in the mechanic shops. Will you change your mind if the object of your loyalty brings you more troubles than benefits? The book of Daniel records stories of people's loyalty to God in challenging situations. At that time Israel was defeated by Babylon. Daniel was among the first of the three groups of people being captured to Babylon. He was probably a teenager then. The Jews could have chosen to give up on their faith, or give in to a foreign religion. However, Daniel and three of his friends remained loyal to God. Jehovah blessed them with great wisdom and knowledge. King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon thought it would be good to keep them as his assistants. Subsequently, Daniel helped the king interpret a weird dream about the future. Daniel attributed the inspiration to God. Nebuchadnezzar thus richly rewarded Daniel and promoted him to a more prominent position. At Daniel's request, the king also made the three friends important officials in the country. Fast forward to chapter 3 of the book. Those of you who grew up in children Sunday school should know the story very well. Nebuchadnezzar erected a nine-story tall gold statue. He commanded everyone in his country to bow down to it when music was played. Those who violated the decree would be thrown into a blazing furnace. Daniel's three friends refused to comply with that law. Therefore, death sentence was executed. But God miraculously saved the three men. Some of you may be thinking: saved from a fire? That is just a fairy tale. Do not forget that our God is the Lord of impossibilities. If He could create the universe in 6 days, can He not override natural laws to accomplish His will? You may never face a similar life or death circumstance. But would you remain loyal to God if you are tempted to compromise your faith? No one may even know that you are a Christian if you stay silent. You save your face. But God bears the shame. The book of Daniel testifies that God is in full control when He seems to be absent. He intervenes into human affairs and international affairs. Even to this day, we can experience God's presence in the least expected situation.

EXPLANATION 解釋

1. Conviction for a True Fault 證據確實的指控

Daniel's three friends were convicted for a true fault. There will be consequence if you violate a rule, whether it makes sense to you or not. But why did Nebuchadnezzar make the statue in the first place? Quite likely he got an inspiration from his dream. [Daniel 2:32-33](#) read: “32 The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, 33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay.” God gave Daniel wisdom to interpret that the gold head represented Nebuchadnezzar. The other body parts symbolized three empires that came after Babylon. Eventually, a huge rock struck the feet and the statue was smashed. The rock denoted God's eternal Kingdom. Being a prideful man, Nebuchadnezzar

missed the important message that no earthly domain would last forever. Therefore, he established a ninety feet tall image to boast about his power. It was perhaps one of the gods that Nebuchadnezzar worshipped. The king's name means "Nebo (which is the name for a Babylonian god), protect my boundary." The statue also reflected the sovereignty of the king. It is like when you go to most government offices, you will see a photo of the current U.S. President. The picture indicates his leadership of the country. Nebuchadnezzar wanted everyone to show loyalty to him by bowing before the statue. But the three young men disobeyed the decree. Listen to the conviction brought before the king in **verse 12**: "But 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, O king. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up." The three offenders were Jews, meaning they were slaves taken in a war. They were administrators assigned by the king. They should set an example to follow the rules. Trespassing a law meant ignoring the king and his government. But the three men would rather obey God's supreme Law when it contradicted with the law of the land. Paying tribute to another god is a clear violation of the First Commandment. God said explicitly in **Exodus 20:3** – "You shall have no other gods before me." These three young men did something their ancestors and their peers failed to do. In fact, the exile was God's discipline for their idolatry. The three men showed submission to God early on in chapter 1. When they and Daniel were drafted to serve in the palace, they chose to follow a vegetarian diet. Perhaps the meat provided by the royal kitchen had been offered to false gods. I encouraged the young people in our church to do the right things. Not only can you lead the younger kids to follow your good example, you may even correct the grown-ups too! My younger son saw me filling up my cup at the hallway foundation a few Sundays ago. He pointed to the sign that reads "Out of Order; Do not Use." I confess that I did what I should not do. Do not copy my bad example. It is always safer to find an easy way out when our faith is under attack. The Life Application Bible states several excuses that could have convinced the three men to do otherwise. Let me highlight a few of them. "We just bow down once, then ask God for forgiveness later." Doing so would abuse God's grace. "The king gave us these positions, and so we owe him our loyalty." It was God who put them there to serve Him. They should listen to God rather than a man. "If we are killed, then we cannot help our people anymore." God could raise up anybody for His purpose. As you can see, those are all excuses for sinning against God. If we only do the right things when it is convenient to us, we do so for our reputation. But if we do the right things even when people are convicting us, we do it for God. The secular world tells us that religion is a personal thing that we practice at home or at a place of worship. It tells us to blend in to the crowd and not to offend others by what we believe. But we should please God instead of people. Ultimately, God will remember and reward our loyalty.

2. Conviction of a True Faith 堅定不移的宣告

The three young men were convicted for a true fault. But even on the verge of death, they demonstrated their conviction of a true faith. The word "conviction" here means the core values a person holds onto. When Nebuchadnezzar heard the allegation, he summoned the three men and gave them a final warning. However, they boldly replied the king in **verses 17-18**: 17 "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. 18 But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up." They laid out two

possible outcomes. First scenario: God saved their lives. It proved that God's power was greater than Nebuchadnezzar and the gods he worshipped. Second scenario: they perished in the fire. Babylonians would laugh at the three men as fools. But fellow Israelites would remember their bravery. What happened next? God sent a divine messenger into the furnace to be with the three men. Fire burned away the rope that tied them, but it did not hurt them. So much so that their hair and clothes remained intact. There was not even any smell of fire on them when they came out from the furnace. God protected the three faithful servants. But God may not rescue His followers from every fire. Many of us should still remember the 1999 Columbine High School shooting in Littleton, Colorado. Two angry students opened fire and killed 12 classmates before they committed suicide. Stories were told that one or more of the victims were asked if they still believed in God when a gun was pointed to their heads. They replied "yes." The next moment they were killed. There were disputes whether those were true stories. But the fact is that one of the victims, Rachel Scott, was an out-spoken Christian in the campus. At one time Scott actually tried to build friendship with one of the shooters. She wrote in her journal, "I am not going to apologize for speaking the name of Jesus. ... If I have to sacrifice everything ... I will." God used the tragedy to encourage many young Christians to stand firm in their faith. The whole country was awakened to the devastating effects of violent video games may have on people. Schools perform shooting lock-down drills and security is beefed up. God made something good out of evil. We see some heroes of faith in Hebrews chapter 11. Noah, Abraham, Joseph and many others had fruitful and long lives. But there were also a multitude of believers whom no one even knows their names died for their faith. **Verses 36-37** of the passage say: 36 Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. 37 They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated. Those unnamed heroes lost everything, but they gained God's approval. They witnessed to the world a true faith. It is easy to be the "as long as" Christians. They will honor God as long as He blesses them with good health, long life and material possession. I will not say that they are all false believers. Perhaps their faith is shallow and untested. God desires us to be "even if" Christians. We continue to trust God even if things do not turn out in our favor. We step out in faith to an uncertain future. After all, there is no need for faith if students can guarantee straight A in every exam, doctors can heal any patient and business owners have customers lined up. Christian parents need faith when sending their kids off to colleges too. Young people face a lot of temptations. Their faith will be challenged by professors and classmates who do not believe in God. Parents: you must help your kids solidify their faith while they are at home. If you allow them to choose freely, more than likely they will rather sleep-in instead of going to Sunday worship. They will pick entertainment over attending Bible study. They will prefer social media and computer games rather than reading the Bible. Show them that you love the Lord, love His Word and live according to Biblical principles. Young people will make a ton of mistakes in life like you do. It is part of a maturing process. Someone said it wisely (my paraphrase): ships are built for oceans and not harbors. We may never learn to rely on God when we are protected in a bubble. Our faith is true because it will prevail even when tested.

3. Conviction about the True Father 配受敬拜的真神

In our story, we see three men being convicted for a true fault. They displayed a conviction of their true faith in God even when their lives were on the line. The Lord rewarded their loyalty by

saving them from the fire. Without a doubt, everyone was very amazed. Nebuchadnezzar even expressed a conviction about the true Father God. Listen to his remarks in **verse 28**: ... “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.” Nebuchadnezzar had no doubt that it was God who saved the three officials. He could not help but praised God! He slapped himself on the face by proving himself wrong. Before the execution, he questioned in **verse 15**: “... What god will be able to rescue you from my hand?” No other god could except Jehovah! Besides admitting the miracle, Nebuchadnezzar also complimented the loyalty of the three men to their God. Our Heavenly Father sometimes uses unpredictable ways to protect His children from a challenging situation. Once a young Christian asked my wife and I for counsel. He was going back home to Asia during a school break. His family told him upfront that they would go to a cemetery to pay tribute to an ancestor. They would burn incense and paper money as part of the ritual. This young man was the only Christian in his family. He wanted to do what God saw as right. But he dared not to offend his parents either. We gave him some encouragement, prayed with him and asked him to pray for God’s wisdom too. It turned out that there was no rain in the region for a period of time. To prevent a forest fire, the authority banned any burning activity at the cemetery. God delivered this young believer from the fire (so to speak) even before he uttered a word to his family. Do you openly display your loyalty to God? It can be as simple as saying grace at meals publicly. Do you give thanks to God for your food when you eat with non-believing classmates or colleagues? Your supervisor may ask you to change some numbers in your report to make it look better. Doing so will ensure business to your company. You have to choose between following the order or looking for a new job. To do what God sees as right often comes with risks. Standing up for righteousness means you implicitly condemn other’s wrongdoings. You may suffer loss in finance and reputation. People may call you names. But God knows your weaknesses. Ask Him for courage, wisdom and strength to bear witness for Him. In some cases, people may even respect you and your God. Nebuchadnezzar was so impressed by what he saw that he even changed the law. Read **verse 29**: “Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way.” Previously, the king ordered people of any nation or language to worship the statue. Now he forbade anyone to dishonor Jehovah. Because of the three officials, the king granted an exemption to their fellow Jews. They were now protected under the law to enjoy their religious freedom. There are many pioneers like them in history who showed their loyalty to God. Because of their faithfulness, other people received benefits. In 1517, Martin Luther nailed 95 statements on a church door to condemn unbiblical behaviors of the Roman Catholic Church. When the church asked Luther to retrieve his accusations, he responded: “I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God. Amen.” Luther thus started the Reformation. He preached from the Bible that a person can only be saved by God’s grace through faith. False doctrines were corrected as a result. Thanks to Luther’s courage. Otherwise, I need to learn Latin before I can preach. You will have to confess your sins to a pastor and not directly to God. You will also have to pay your way to go to heaven. Today, God puts you in a different circle of influence. People around you will be blessed when you stay loyal to God.

CONCLUSION 結論

We can experience God's presence in the least expected situation. God sent a divine messenger to be with the three friends in the furnace. What kind of fire are you facing today? God can surely save us from every trouble. But He may not do so every time if He has a higher plan. Before God rescued the three men from the fire, He rescued them in the fire. He assured them that He was with them. God will also walk with you in the fire. It may be easier to die for what we believe. Many Christians in history and other countries suffer from that. However, it is often harder to live for what we believe. You may encounter prejudice and humiliation. The devil may lie to you that God has forsaken you. Then you wonder if it is worth the cost to be a Christian. Do not give up yet! God does not send us to a playground. He equips us to be His soldiers in a battleground. You are never alone. There were millions of faithful believers in history, and many more around us and in the world today. We are fighting this spiritual warfare together. God will give us a confidence of "even if" when we ask Him for help. There is a beautiful song by MercyMe with the same title "Even If." Part of the lyrics go like this: "It's easy to sing when there's nothing to bring me down. But what will I say when I'm held to the flame, like I am right now? I know You're able and I know You can save through the fire with Your mighty hand. But even if You don't, my hope is You alone. I know the sorrow, and I know the hurt would all go away if You'd just say the word. But even if You don't, my hope is You alone." Our faith in God is real because it is built upon the truth.

INTRODUCTION 引言

忠誠是一種有趣的情緒。人們可能會對他們的家庭、國家或是某些品牌表示忠誠。我從學校畢業後的第一份工作是在實驗室做事。我的團隊裡有兩個韓國人。其中一個人非常愛國，以至於他開的是一輛韓國車。在 90 年代初期，韓國開始在美國銷售汽車時，它們的車子並不十分可靠。那位同事可能要在修理廠裡花很多時間。如果你表達忠誠的對象給你帶來麻煩多於益處，你會改變你的態度嗎？但以理書記錄了一些人在充滿挑戰的情況下仍然對神忠誠的故事。當時以色列被巴比倫滅了。但以理是被流放到巴比倫的第三批人之中的第一批。那時他可能只是個少年人。猶太人可能選擇放棄信仰，或者屈服於外邦的宗教。但是，但以理和他的三個朋友仍然忠於神。耶和華賜予他們極大的智慧和知識。巴比倫王尼布甲尼撒認為，讓他們擔任助手對自己有好處。隨後，但以理幫助王解釋了有關未來的一個怪夢。但以理將靈感歸功於神。於是，尼布甲尼撒給但以理豐厚的酬謝，並把他提升到更重要的職位。應但以理的要求，王還把三個朋友提升了官位。進到本書的第 3 章。那些在兒童主日學長大的人應該非常熟悉這個故事。尼布甲尼撒立起一座九層樓高的金像。他命令全國所有人在聽到奏樂時俯伏敬拜那個像。違抗命令的人將被扔進火窯中。但以理的三個朋友拒絕聽命。因此，死刑便執行了。但是神奇蹟般地拯救了這三個人。有些人可能在想：從大火中救出？那簡直是個童話故事。不要忘記我們的神是使不能變成可能的主。如果祂可以在六天之內創造宇宙，難道祂不可以超越自然法則來成就祂的旨意嗎？你也許永遠不會面臨類似的生死關頭。但是，當你落在妥協信仰的試探時，你會仍然對神忠誠嗎？如果你保持沉默，甚至沒人會知道你是個基督徒。你保住你的面子。但是神卻蒙羞。但以理書證明，當神似乎已經消失時，祂仍然在掌控一切。祂介入人事和國際事務。即使在今天，我們也可以在意料之外的情況下體會神的同在。

EXPLANATION 解釋

1. Conviction for a True Fault 證據確實的指控

但以理的三個朋友面對證據確實的指控。如果你違反規則，你就要承擔後果，不管你認為那些條例合理與否。但是，為什麼尼布甲尼撒要製造雕像？他很有可能從夢中得到靈感。但以理書 2:32-33 說：32 「這像的頭是精金的，胸膛和膀臂是銀的，肚腹和腰是銅的，33 腿是鐵的，腳是半鐵半泥的。」神賜予但以理智慧，解釋金頭代表尼布甲尼撒。其他身體部位象徵在巴比倫之後興起的三個帝國。最終，一塊大石頭撞在腳上，粉碎整個雕像。大石代表神永恆的國。尼布甲尼撒是個驕傲的人，他錯過了一個重要的信息，就是世上的國度不會永遠存在。因此，他建立了一個 90 英尺高的像來誇耀自己的能力。那也許是尼布甲尼撒崇拜的神明之一。他名字的意思是「尼布（一個巴比倫神明的名稱），求你保護我的疆界。」雕像也反映了王的主權。就像你去大多數政府機構時，你會看到現任美國總統的照片。圖像顯示他是國家的領導人。尼布甲尼撒要求所有人在雕像前鞠躬以表達對他的忠誠。但是，這三個年輕人違反了該法令。請聽第 12 節中在王面前對他們的指控：「現在有幾個猶大人，就是王所派管理巴比倫省事務的沙得拉、米煞、亞伯尼歌；王啊，這些

人不理你，不事奉你的神，也不敬拜你所立的金像。」這三個犯人是猶太人，意思是他們是在戰爭中被俘的奴隸。他們是王指派的官員。他們應該樹立榜樣，遵守規則。違反法律意味著他們無視王及他的政府。但是當人間的法律與神的命令相抵觸時，他們寧願遵守神的至高律法。向另一個神明致敬顯然是違反了十誡的第一誡。神在出埃及記 20:3 中明確地說：「除了我以外，你不可有別的神。」這三個年輕人做了他們的祖先和其他同胞沒有做到的事情。實際上，被擄到異邦是神對於他們敬拜偶像的管教。這三個人在第一章就早已向神表示順服。當他們和但以理被徵召到宮廷服事時，他們選擇只吃蔬菜。也許皇家廚房提供的肉是獻過給偶像的。我鼓勵我們教會中的年輕人做正確的事。這樣不僅可以帶領小孩子效法你們的好榜樣，甚至還可以糾正大人呢！幾週前，我的小兒子看見我在走廊的飲水器裝水。他就指向那個告示：「故障；請勿使用。」我承認我做了不該做的事情。不要模仿我的壞榜樣。當我們的信仰受到攻擊時，找一條容易的出路總是比較安全的。靈修版聖經列出了幾個藉口，能夠說服這三個人去妥協。讓我重點介紹其中一些。「我們只跪拜一次，然後再向神求赦免。」這樣做是濫用神的恩典。「王給了我們這些職位，因此我們必須效忠於他。」是神把他們放在那裡服事祂的。他們應該聽神的話，而不是聽人的話。「如果我們被殺，那麼我們將無法再幫助同胞。」神可以為祂的計劃興起任何人。如你所見，所有這些都是得罪神的藉口。如果我們只在覺得方便時才做正確的事，那是為了自己的聲譽。但是，即使我們被指控時仍然選擇做正確的事情，我們就是為神而做的。俗世告訴我們，宗教是我們在家裡或是禮拜堂做的個人事情。它告訴我們要融入人群中，而不要因我們的信仰冒犯別人。但是我們應該取悅神，而不是取悅人。最終，神會記念並回報我們的忠誠。

2. Conviction of a True Faith 堅定不移的宣告

這三個年輕人被判證據確實的指控。但是，即使面對死亡的威脅，他們仍然表現出堅定不移的宣告。這裡的「宣告」是指一個人堅持的核心價值。當尼布甲尼撒聽到對他們的指控時，他召集了這三個人，並給了他們最後的警告。但是，他們在第 17-18 節中大膽地回答王：17「即便如此，我們所事奉的神能將我們從烈火的窯中救出來。王啊，他也必救我們脫離你的手；18 即或不然，王啊，你當知道我們決不事奉你的神，也不敬拜你所立的金像。」他們提出了兩個可能的結果。第一種情況：神救了他們的性命。事實證明，神的能力超過尼布甲尼撒和他所崇拜的神明。第二種情況：他們在火中喪命。巴比倫人會嘲笑這三個傻瓜。但是以色列的同胞會記念他們的英勇。接下來發生什麼事？神差派一位神聖的使者到火窯裡與三個人在一起。火燒掉了綁住他們的繩子，但卻沒有傷害他們，甚至連他們的頭髮和衣服仍然完好無損。當他們從火窯中出來時，身上也沒有任何火燎的氣味。神保護了三個忠心的僕人。但是神不一定會從每一場大火中拯救祂的跟隨者。我們中的許多人應該還記得 1999 年在科羅拉多州利特爾頓市哥倫拜恩 (Columbine) 高中發生的槍擊事件。兩名憤怒的學生開槍殺死了 12 名同學，然後他們自殺。據說兇手用槍指著一個或幾位受害者的頭，問及他們是否仍然相信神。他們回答「是的！」。下一刻他們被殺死。那些故事是否真實存在爭議。但是事實是，其中一名受害者瑞秋·斯科特 (Rachel Scott) 是校園裡一個直言不諱的基督徒。斯科特實際上曾經試圖與一位槍手建立友誼。她在日記中寫道：「我不會為宣稱耶穌的名字而感到羞恥。... 如果我必須犧牲一切 ... 我也願意。」神使用這場悲劇鼓勵許多年輕的基督徒堅守自己的信仰。整個國家都意識到暴力電腦遊戲

可能對人造成的負面影響。許多學校進行躲避開槍事件的演習，並加強保安。神從一宗邪惡的事情帶出美好的結果。我們在希伯來書第 11 章中看到了一些信心英雄。挪亞、亞伯拉罕、約瑟和許多其他人都有豐盛的長壽。但是也有更多信徒為主殉道，甚至沒有人知道他們的名字。這章經文的第 36-37 節說：**36 又有人忍受戲弄、鞭打、捆鎖、監禁、各等的磨煉，37 被石頭打死，被鋸鋸死，受試探，被刀殺，披著綿羊山羊的皮各處奔跑，受窮乏、患難、苦害。**這些無名英雄失去了一切，但他們獲得了神的認可。他們向世界見證了真實的信仰。成為「只要」的基督徒很容易。只要神保佑他們身體健康、長命百歲和家財萬貫，他們便會敬拜神。我不會說他們都是假信徒。也許他們的信仰是膚淺而未經考驗的。神希望我們成為「即或不然」的基督徒。縱使事情沒有達到我們預期的結果，我們仍然繼續信靠神。我們以信心踏向不確定的未來。畢竟，如果學生能夠在每次考試中保證拿到甲等，醫生可以治愈任何病人，或是做老板的不缺客戶，那麼就無需信心。基督徒的父母在送孩子上大學時也需要信心。年輕人面臨許多試探。他們的信心將受到不信神的教授和同學挑戰。家長們：你必須幫助孩子在家中鞏固自己的信心。如果你允許他們自由選擇，他們很可能寧願睡懶覺而不願參加星期天的禮拜。他們會選擇娛樂過於參加聖經學習。他們會喜歡社交媒體和電腦遊戲，而不是閱讀聖經。你必須讓他們看到你是愛主、愛祂的話語、並按照聖經的原則生活的人。年輕人會像你一樣在生活中犯很多錯誤。這是成熟過程的一部分。有一句有智慧的話說（大致的意思是）：船隻為海洋而不是港口建造的。當我們一直躲在泡沫裡面時，我們可能永遠學不會依靠神。我們的信心是真實的，因為即使受到考驗，它仍然會得勝。

3. Conviction about the True Father 配受敬拜的父神

在我們的故事中，我們看到三個人受到證據確實的指控。但即使他們的面對生命危險，他們仍然對神顯示出堅定不移的宣告。耶和華獎勵他們的忠誠，將他們從火中救出來。毫無疑問，每個人都極度驚訝。尼布甲尼撒甚至讚美這位配受敬拜的父神。請聽他在第 28 節中的講話：**…「沙得拉、米煞、亞伯尼歌的神是應當稱頌的！他差遣使者救護倚靠他的僕人，他們不遵王命，捨去己身，在他們神以外不肯事奉敬拜別神。」**尼布甲尼撒毫不懷疑是神拯救了三位官員。他不禁由衷地讚美神！他也賞了自己一巴掌，證明他是錯的。在執行死刑之前，他在第 15 節中質疑：**「…有何神能救你們脫離我手呢？」**除了耶和華，沒有別的神能做到！尼布甲尼撒除了承認這個奇蹟之外，他還稱讚了這三個人對神的忠誠。我們的天父有時會使用無法預料的方式來保護祂的兒女脫離困境。有一次，一個年輕的弟兄跟我和我的太太談話。他在假期間回到亞洲。他的家人事先告訴他，他們將去墓地向祖先致敬。作為儀式的一部分，他們會燒香和紙錢。這個年輕人是家中唯一的基督徒。他想做神認為是正確的事情。但是他又不敢冒犯他的父母。我們給了他一些鼓勵，與他一起禱告，還提醒他求神給智慧。結果，那個地區有一段時間沒有下雨。為了防止森林大火，當局禁止在墓地燒任何東西。甚至在這位年輕的信徒向家人說話之前，神就把他從火中救了出來。你有否公開地表現出對神的忠誠？一件很簡單的事就是公開地謝飯禱告。當你與不信主的同學或同事一起吃飯時，你會否為食物而感謝神？你的上司可能會要求你更改報告中的一些數據使結果更好看。這樣做將確保公司的業務。你必須在遵循命令或尋找新工作之間作出選擇。做神認為正確的事通常會帶來風險。為公義站起來意味著你間接地譴責別人的不正當行為。你可能會蒙受財務和聲譽的損失。人們可能會稱呼你一些難聽的名字。

但是神知道你的軟弱。祈求祂加添你勇氣、智慧和力量為祂作見證。在某些情況下，人們可能會尊重你和你的神。尼布甲尼撒被他所看到的一切感到震撼，以至他甚至改變了法律。請讀第 29 節：「現在我降旨，無論何方、何國、何族的人，謗讟沙得拉、米煞、亞伯尼歌之神的，必被凌遲，他的房屋必成糞堆，因為沒有別神能這樣施行拯救。」在此之前，王下令任何種族或語言的人敬拜神像。現在，他禁止任何人羞辱耶和華。由於這三名官員，王給予他們的猶太同胞豁免。他們現在受到法律保護，享受宗教自由。歷史上有許多像他們這樣的先鋒，表現出對神的忠誠。由於他們的忠心，其他人得到了好處。在 1517 年，馬丁·路德在一所教堂的門上釘了 95 句聲明，譴責羅馬天主教會不符合聖經的行為。當教會要求路德撤回指控時，他回答：「我不能也不會否定我所講的話，因為背棄良知既不正確也不安全。這是我的立場，我別無選擇，求神幫助我，阿們！」路德由此開始了宗教改革。他根據聖經來講道，指出一個人只能通過信心接受神的恩典而得救。結果他糾正了錯誤的教義。感謝路德的勇氣。否則，我今天需要學會拉丁文才能講道。你要透過牧師懺悔而不是直接向神認罪。你甚至要付費才可以上天堂。今天，神將你放在不同的圈子發揮影響力。當你向神忠誠時，你周圍的人也會受到祝福。

CONCLUSION 結論

我們可以在意料之外的情況下體會神的同在。神派了一位神聖的使者與火窯中的三個朋友同在。你今天面對什麼樣的火？神絕對可以救我們脫離一切困難。但是，如果祂有更高的旨意，祂可能不一定每次都拯救我們。神從火裡救出這三個人之前，祂在火中救了他們。祂向他們保證，祂一直與他們同在。神也會在火中與你同行。為我們的信仰而死可能是容易的事。歷史上和其他國家的許多基督徒都因此而受害。但是，為了我們的信仰而活通常比較難。你可能會遇到偏見和屈辱。魔鬼可能對你撒謊，說神已經離棄了你。然後，你便懷疑是否值得付出代價成為基督徒。不要放棄！神不是把我們送到遊樂場。祂裝備我們成為祂在戰場上的士兵。你永遠不會孤單。歷史上有數百萬忠實的信徒，我們周圍以及當今世界都有更多的信徒。我們並肩打這場屬靈戰爭。當我們請求神幫助時，祂會給我們「即或不然」的信心。「憐憫我」這個樂隊唱過一首優美的詩歌，標題就是「即或不然」。歌詞的一部分是這樣的：「當沒有什麼讓我失望時，要歌唱是容易的。但是，當我像現在一樣被牽到火旁邊時，我會說些什麼？我知道祢有能力，而且我明白祢可以用大能的手拯救我脫離火窯。但是即或不然，祢仍然是我的盼望。我知道只要祢說一句話，所有的憂傷和痛苦就會全部消除。但是即或不然，祢仍然是我的盼望。」我們對神的信心是真實的，因為它是建立在真理之上。