**Going deeper in Daniel 3:16-25**

**INTRODUCTION**

King Nebuchadnezzar has built a huge statute of gold (90 feet tall and 9 feet wide). He has commanded all people to bow down and worship it as soon as they hear the music begin to play. All have done so however it has been reported to the king that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego have not and the king calls them in and gives them the chance to fall in line with his wishes. He lets them know that if they do not, they will be thrown into a fiery furnace. This is their response.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.*

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered King Nebuchadnezzar, “We do not need to respond to this. 17 Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. 18 But even if He does not, we want you to know, O king, we will still not serve your gods or worship the gold statute you set up.” 19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with rage and his face reflected his extreme anger toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He commanded that the furnace be heated seven times more than what it was usually heated. 20 He ordered the strongest soldiers in the army to tie them up and throw them into the roaring furnace. 21 They were thrown into the roaring furnace wearing their robes, trousers, turbans, and other clothes. 22 Because the king was in such a hurry and the furnace was so exceedingly hot, the flames killed the men who carried Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. 23 And these three men fell, completely bound, fell down into the blazing furnace. 24 Suddenly, King Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in alarm and asked, “Didn’t we throw three men tied up into the fire?” They said, “That’s right, O King.” 25 Look! I see four men walking around unbound and unharmed in the middle of the fire and the fourth is like the Son of God!

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. Why do you think Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego say to the king that they don’t need to respond to him and his demand rather than just saying we aren’t going to do it?

2. What kind of risk were they taking by saying this? What kind of risks have you taken when it comes to your journey with the Lord? Knowing what was at stake what would help you to do what they did?

3. What does verse 18 tell you about their expectations of God? What does this tell you about their faith? How does this compare to your faith?

4. What is the fiery trial for you right now? If you are not going through a trial is there someone close to you that is going through a trial that you can stand beside?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Thank the Lord for walking with you through the fiery trials in your life.

\*Ask Him to help you grow in a faith like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

\*Ask the Spirit of God to reveal to you someone who is going through a fiery trial that you can walk with.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

Fiery trials are a normal part of the journey of faith in this world. We should not be surprised by that. Will you trust the Lord this week with your fiery trial? Will you trust Him to answer in the way He sees as best even if it is not what you were expecting? Will you be willing to jump into someone’s fiery furnace and stand with them in faith this week?