

Faith in the Furnace

How to walk with God in the midst of the fire

Time:
7-10 minutes

Focus:
Faith, Testing, Strength

Scriptures

1 Peter 4:12
Daniel 3:23-25
1 Peter 1:7
1 Timothy 6:12
Ephesians 6:10-11 and 17
James 1:2-4
2 Corinthians 4:17
Job 23:10
Romans 5:3-5

Parking lot

Write down distracting thoughts here:

Settle in

Take a deep breath. Turn off notifications on your phone. Ask God to help you fight for faith in the midst of your trials today.

Thought starter

Read 1 Peter 4:12 slowly. Then read it again:

1 Peter 4:12 ESV

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

The Bible tells us not to be surprised when we go through fiery trials. The trials of life will forge and test our faith. That means any fire we are walking through now is not a random fluke. It's a refining experience. God can strengthen us through our fires if we let him.

Here's what we'll learn in this Quick Quiet Time:

- God walks with us through fires. He will not leave us alone.
- God uses the fires we go through to make us stronger.
- God gives us the spiritual weapons we need to win the fight for our faith.

God is with us in the fire.

Daniel 3:23-25 ESV

And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace. [24] Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." [25] He answered and said, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods."

This story reminds us that God doesn't always take us out of the fire—but he always steps into it with us.

Mic drop moments:

- When God allows us to go through a fire, he doesn't want to burn us down. He wants to build up our faith. God can forge faith through the fiery trials.
- The same God who stood with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stands with us.



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Notes:

 **Faith tested is faith strengthened.****1 Peter 1:7 NLT**

These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

God uses hard times to shape us into stronger people—kind of like a blacksmith uses fire and tools to turn metal into something strong and useful.

 **Nerd note: What's a blacksmith shop like today?**

- Back in the day, a blacksmith shop looked like a guy using a furnace and tools to heat and sharpen metal weapons.
- In today's world, a blacksmith shop might look more like a metal fabrication lab—a place filled with high-tech tools like plasma cutters, CNC machines, and 3D printers.

The heart of it is the same: raw materials + heat + pressure = transformation.

- Just like a blacksmith uses fire and force to shape metal, God uses life's pressure and heat to shape our hearts. Whether it's an ancient furnace or a modern workshop, the process is still about turning something ordinary into something extraordinary.

 **Metaphor moments**

- **The furnace:** Like gold in a crucible, our faith is refined by heat, not destroyed by it.
- **The forge:** Trials are God's blacksmith shop. Sparks fly, but strength is born.
- **The battlefield:** Trials are battlegrounds where our faith learns to fight. Faith that's never tested is faith that can't be trusted.

 **God gives us the weapons we need to win.****1 Timothy 6:12 NLT**

Fight the good fight for the true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life to which God has called you, which you have declared so well before many witnesses.

Ephesians 6:10-11,17 NLT

A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. [11] Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. [17] ...take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

We have to fight for our faith when we are going through trials. Here are a few spiritual weapons that God gives us so that we can win the fight for our faith:

Notes:

- **Armor up** (Ephesians 6:10-18): Trials are spiritual warfare. Don't go in unarmed.
- **Wield the Word:** Scripture is our sword. Let's not just read it; let's swing it.
- **Pray like it's war:** Because it is. Prayer is our war room. Spiritual warfare is our battlefield—and our knees are our front line.
- **Stand your ground:** Even when we're trembling, standing is still standing.

Supporting scriptures on trials and tests

James 1:2-4 NLT

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. [3] For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. [4] So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

2 Corinthians 4:17 NLT

For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!

Job 23:10 NLT

"But he knows where I am going. And when he tests me, I will come out as pure as gold."

Truth bombs:

- Trials are not punishments. God works through them to level us up.
- God is more interested in our character than our comfort.
- The fire reveals what's fake and refines what's real.
- We don't need to feel strong to be faithful. Faith is choosing to believe God, not our feelings.

Reflective questions

1. Have I been viewing trials as punishments or as opportunities for growth?
2. What "fiery trial" am I currently facing, and how might God be using it to refine me?
3. How can I actively fight for my faith today?
4. Who can I encourage that's walking through their own fire?

Final word

Romans 5:3-5 ESV

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, [4] and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, [5] and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Notes:

When we go through hard times, our struggle isn't pointless. God uses trials to help us grow stronger and trust him more.

We are not alone in the fire. The flames may be hot, but they're not final. We will come out stronger, purer, and more dangerous to the enemy than ever before.



Humor break!

What do you call a jacket that's on fire? A blazer.

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