

THE FURNACE TEST (Part #1)

Request: This request comes from your pastor. I believe that 2007 will present our church with exciting new challenges and tests. I believe the Lord is stirring our hearts toward new and exciting adventures for 2007. Therefore I feel the need to prepare us for the tests that will certainly come with them.

Last Wednesday, I finished that Christmas special with a sermon entitled, A Way of Escape, taken from Matt.2:12-18 and 1 Cor.10:13. We will use 1 Cor.10:13 for preparation of this study.

“No temptation has overtaken you but such as (except) is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not let you be tempted beyond what you are able, but (alla) [contrast] with the temptation will provide a way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.”

We will examine 1 Cor.10:13 by the following three homiletical points.

- **Problem** **no temptation** (peirasmos) (ouk) **overtaken you** (lambano / perf.a.ind) **common to man.**
- **Promise** **tempted** (peirazo / a.p.ind) **God is faithful – not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able.**
- **Provision** **temptation** (to peirasmos) **it will provide a way of escape – that you may be able** (dunamai / p.m.infin) **to endure it** (hupophero / a.a.ind).

This lesson will study FIVE aspects of The Furnace Test.

1. We will begin by studying our lesson text by the following eight homiletical points on The Furnace Test.

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| • Forewarned of furnace test | (Dan.3:8-11) | undeserved |
| • Facing furnace test | (Dan.3:12-18) | unmoved |
| • Fiery furnace test | (Dan.3:19) | unbelievable |
| • Fatal furnace test | (Dan.3:20-22) | untouched |
| • Four taking furnace test | (Dan.3:24-25) | unbound |
| • Freed through furnace test | (Dan.3:26) | unharmful |
| • Fabric in furnace test | (Dan.3:27) | unnatural |
| • Faith cycle in furnace test | (Dan.3:28-30) | unmistakable |

2. The way of our escape from testing will never be apart from the will of God.

The way of escape for the spiritual advancing believer will always be according to and compatible with the will of God (James 1:2-4; 1 Pet.1:6-8; Rom.5:3-5).

After reading Dan.3:16-18, what did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego believe about the will of God as it pertained to the furnace test?

Was God faithful to provide a way of escape? Did God provide a way of escape from it or through it? (Dan.3:26-30)

How were they able to endure it?

3. What did these three have to lose by making the choice to live according to the word of God and take the furnace test?

After reading Dan.3:2, 11-12, write the answers on the blank line _____.

Their decision was not complicated to them because of clarity of God's will on the subject (CBD) (Dan.3:16-18; John 8:31-32).

Notice their composure and objectivity in making the decision. How important is it to not get subjective and depart from clarity of the truth of God's word on the issue?

4. They concluded that their way of escape involved two options that both depended on God's faithfulness. They accepted both options (Dan.3:16-18).

By accepting the two options, they now must apply the faith cycle to their decision. Complete their faith cycle exercise (Rom.4:21).

Hearing (Rom.10:17; Ex.20:3-4)

Completing (James 2:22; Dan.3:25-28)

Believing (Heb.4:2)

Applying (2 Cor.5:7)

5. God has obligated Himself to provide a way of escape to the spiritual advancing believer who chooses to endure the undeserved suffering test by means of the faith cycle – God is faithful.

God is faithful and will not let the spiritual advancing believer be tempted beyond what is common to man.

God is faithful and will provide a way of escape from or through the test.

God is faithful and will provide you will the ability or capacity to endure it.

“God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”
(1 Cor.1:9)

- Was Christ with them through the furnace test? (Ps.40:8)
- How was Christ with them? (Dan.3:24-25; Heb.13:5)

“If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself.” (2 Tim2:13)

I once heard Charles Stanley comment that:

**“the only thing that these three believers lost in the fiery furnace was
the one thing that bound them before the test.”
(Dan.3:20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 27).**