

Bring It On!  
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"If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up." Daniel 3:17-18

We know them as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. King Nebuchadnezzar has threatened to toss them into a furnace if they don't worship his gods and bow down to his statue. I love their response in the verses above. They know God can deliver them, but even if He doesn't, they are still not going to bow down to false gods and statues. They were essentially telling the king, "Bring it on," because they knew who the true God was, and whether they lived or died, that truth wouldn't change.

Threats, stress, challenges, and even sin and death don't change the truth. Christ is Risen! Jesus reminds us in John 16 that, "In this life you will have trouble. But take heart, I have overcome the world."

Knowing that (live or die) Christ has overcome the world, brings me a peace that sets me free to enjoy life, love others, and fulfill my vocations in life to the best of my ability. Some may think it would have been easier for these three men to just bow down to the king's statue, but I don't think they saw it that way. When they came face to face with sin and evil, they didn't bow to temptation - they leaned on the Lord!