

# "BUT IF NOT" FAITH

LAST WEEK'S MESSAGE

In Daniel 3:1-6, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon built a statue to be worshipped by everybody. However, three young exiles from Judah named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego displayed great faith in God and refused to do so, which warranted a punishment of being burned alive. Regardless of King Nebuchadnezzar's attempts to convince them (vv.14-15), they held onto their conviction and believed that God would deliver them. "BUT EVEN IF HE DOES NOT" (v.18), they remained faithful to God.

## AUTHENTIC

To properly understand the context of this event, let's look at Daniel 1. Babylon conquered Jerusalem and the king took many people as "prisoners of war". He then selected good-looking, intelligent young men with no defects and with understanding and discernment as servants (vv.3-4). They were trained and taught the Chaldean way, practically forcing them to conform to a culture they knew nothing about.

Among them were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, whose names were changed to Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. This was an attempt to change their identities and influence their way of life (vv.5-7), but these young men did not give in.

HEBREW NAMES	BABYLONIAN NAMES
<b>Daniel:</b> God is my judge	<b>Belteshazzar:</b> Bel protects his life
<b>Hananiah:</b> the Lord shows grace	<b>Shadrach:</b> command of Aku (the moon god)
<b>Mishael:</b> Who is like God?	<b>Meshach:</b> Who is as Aku is?
<b>Azariah:</b> the Lord is my help	<b>Abed-nego:</b> Servant of Nego (god of wisdom)

Counterfeit faith based on convenience or negotiation, just like Jacob's initially shallow faith (Genesis 28:20-22). He even vowed that if God gave him what he wanted, he would make the Lord his God and tithe accordingly. On the other hand, authentic faith grows when it is based on God and not circumstances. Job lost everything and yet continued to worship God and bless the name of the LORD

(Job 1:21-22): "though He slay me, I will still hope (wait, trust) in Him" (Job 13:15). Jesus also displayed authentic faith as He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, "... yet not as I will, but as You will" (Matthew 26:39). Counterfeit faith is not dependable, and God wants us to make sure that our faith is real. We are to grow in the grace and knowledge of who He is (2 Peter 3:18).

## CENTERED ON WHO GOD IS

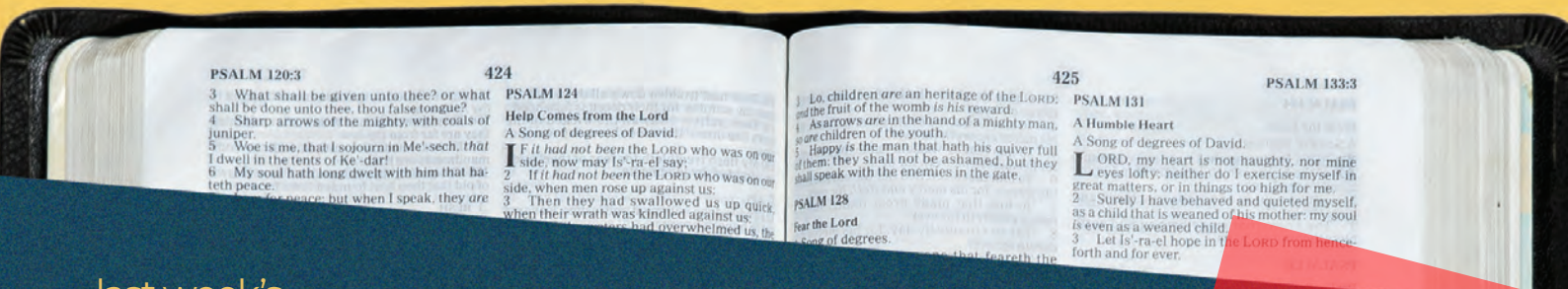
Faith does not exist in a vacuum. It always has an object. In Daniel 3:17-18, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego declared their faith in a delivering God. Their faith was not based on what they wanted from God but on God Himself. Real faith is anchored on who God is — His character, power, and goodness — not on feelings, circumstances, people, or leaders. God is good, and He knows what's best for us.

Hebrews 11:6 tells us that without faith, it is impossible to please God, and the verses that follow cite examples of faithful people such as Noah, Abraham, and Moses. Their faith in God allowed them to obey, submit, and follow His leading, even though they died without seeing His promise (v.13): the coming of the Messiah. On the other hand, we are privileged to have JESUS as the fulfillment of God's promise! Therefore, we are to get rid of any encumbrance and sin and fix our eyes on Jesus as He perfects our faith (Hebrews 12:1-2)!

## TRIUMPHANT FAITH

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego believed deliverance would come from God and pledged their faith to Him EVEN IF HE DOES NOT save them. This greatly angered Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 3:22 onwards). He sent them to burn the furnace — but they saw a fourth Man in the fire, and eventually, the three men came out unharmed! Not even their hair or clothes smelled of smoke!

Romans 8:28-32 shows us the foundation of a triumphant faith: God is on our side and His purpose is always good! When you go through the fire of life, Jesus goes with you. You emerge triumphant. Let us hold on to Jesus' promises in Matthew 28:20: that He will be with His people always, EVEN TO THE END OF THE AGE.



## last week's memory verse

If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O King. But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.

DANIEL 3:17-18

## discuss this message

- What does a "but if not" faith mean to you?
- What do you need to do to develop this kind of faith?
- Was there an instance in your life when you were centered on a problem instead of God? Describe your life then.
- How can you apply the lessons you have learned in this message?

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# About the GIFT...

Come to the Welcome Center!

YOU BEING HERE IS NO ACCIDENT!

God brought you here for His purpose.

## STEP INTO THE COMMUNITY



Fellowship and learn together with people like you!

### WOMEN2WOMEN ALL WOMEN

#### Precious in His Sight: Born to Be a Winner (How to Experience in You What is True of You)

with Roochie Masakayan  
October 17, Thursday, 10:00 AM, MPH

ALSO STREAMED LIVE ONLINE


 ccfwomen2women  
 CCFWomen2WomenMinistry

### B1G MINISTRY SINGLES

#### Through the Fog: How to See Clearly in Times of Doubt

October 18, Friday, 7:30 PM, MPH

CONNECT WITH THEM ONLINE


 B1GMinistry

### MOVEMEN+ ALL MEN

#### A Father's Godly Legacy

October 19, Saturday  
2:00 PM, CCF Center

CONNECT WITH THEM ONLINE


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### NXTGEN KIDS FROM 4-12 YEARS OLD

#### Outstanding: Setting an example for believers, even when we're young

Sundays, 9:00 AM, 12:00 NN, 3:00 PM  
G/F CCF Center (ages 4-12)

ZOOM: for ages 7-12; 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM  
message us at [facebook.com/ccfnxtgen](https://www.facebook.com/ccfnxtgen) to sign up

ONLINE: Bible Lesson Video Premiere  
9:00 AM at  ccfnxtgen

## LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR FAITH

Continue to be equipped in your discipleship journey.

### Be equipped with GLC!

GLC LEVEL 1

#### Book 1: One by One

ONSITE: October 13, Sunday, 10:30 AM, Room 2A

ZOOM: October 16, Wednesday, 7:30 PM

#### Book 2: Spiritual Disciplines

ONSITE: October 13, Sunday, 1:30 PM, Room 2A

ZOOM: October 16, Wednesday, 7:30 PM

GLC LEVEL 2

#### Book 6: Basic Doctrines

ONSITE: October 13, Sunday, 1:00 PM, Room 3A

ZOOM: October 17, Thursday, 7:30 PM

#### Power-Up: Leadership Training to Empower DGroup Leaders

with Ptr. Ricky Sarthou

NUTS AND BOLT, SESSION 3

October 13, Sunday, 7/F Gym  
11:00 AM and 2:00 PM

#### Baptism Class and Rites

CLASS: October 13, Sunday, 1:30 PM

RITEs: October 20, Sunday, 1:30 PM  
G/F New Building

#### How to Start a Dgroup Workshop

ONSITE: October 13, Sunday, 11:00 AM

ZOOM: October 14, Monday, 7:30 PM

Register here for the classes and events:

[linktr.ee/ccfglc](https://linktr.ee/ccfglc)

#### Healing Hands Medical Ministry General Assembly

OPEN TO MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS, PRACTITIONERS, AND SUPPLIERS

October 19, Saturday  
11:00 AM, G/F New Building

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

FOR F2F: [go.ccf.org.ph/HHGA](https://www.go.ccf.org.ph/HHGA)

FOR ZOOM: [go.ccf.org.ph/HHZoom](https://www.go.ccf.org.ph/HHZoom)

message them at [facebook.com/CCFMI.org.ph](https://www.facebook.com/CCFMI.org.ph) for any inquiries

### God loves you.

He desires for you to have a meaningful life with Him in the present and gain eternal life with Him in the future.

*Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who **keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness** to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments – Deuteronomy 7:9*

### God is holy.

We are sinful, and our sin separates us from Him.

*Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence. – Romans 3:23*

### God is merciful.

In His love, He made the only way for us to be reconciled to Him: through His son, Jesus Christ. Jesus had to die on the cross for our sins and be raised to life for eternity.

*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. – Romans 5:8*

*I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. – John 14:6*

### God is gracious.

By placing our faith in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven of our sins and saved from eternal death.

*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. – John 3:16*

*For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. – Ephesians 2:8-9*

Would you like to place your faith in Jesus Christ today?

Lord Jesus, I need You. I confess that I am a sinner. I believe that You died on the cross to pay for all my sins. With Your help, I will turn away from my sins. Please come into my life and be my Savior and my Master. I accept Your gift of eternal life. Make me the kind of new person You want me to be. Thank You for giving me eternal life. Amen.

### God keeps His promises.

You can be sure that you have eternal life when you trust in Jesus.

*And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. — 1 John 5:11-13*

## ccf SERVICES AT THE CCF CENTER

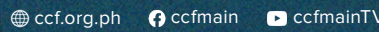


### Saturday Nights

5:00 PM

### Sundays

9:00 AM, 12:00 NN,  
and 3:00 PM

### Online Livestream

 ccf.org.ph  ccfmain  ccfmainTV  
9:00 AM, 12:00 NN, 3:00 PM, 6:00 PM

Visit [ccf.org.ph/live/broadcast-channels/](https://www.ccf.org.ph/live/broadcast-channels/) for the list of broadcast TV channels and radio stations.