

SEPTEMBER 18

“WHEN WE ARE OUT OF OPTIONS, THAT’S WHEN OUR CHARACTER DEVELOPS.”

READ

Daniel 3:28

Our character is tested when difficult circumstances arise. What is your response when the inevitable happens? When you begin to move forward in life, or even mature spiritually, success in any degree always raises the stakes. Day by day, there’s more to lose. The higher you climb, the more the Nebuchadnezzars of this world will claim to have control. They can threaten you so much that you feel that doing it their way would be easier. That’s what happened to Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Their commitment to God landed them in a fiery furnace, but it also brought them out. For something to be an authentic test of character, it must be a situation that is entirely out of your hands. If you can still manipulate it, it’s not a true test. Only when you say, “I have nowhere to go; I have no options; I’m not in control,” will you truly discover the degree of Christ’s character you have in your life. It’s a trial by fire. Every time you make the right decision and choose to embrace, rather than escape the consequences, the fire refines you.

PRAY

Jesus, help me to endure trials so that my life, my integrity, and my character will be refined. In the most difficult times, remind me that You are with me in the fire. The Hebrew children refused to worship anyone but You, God. So do I! I will not bow to anyone but You.

From October 26, 2003