



## Confident Faith: Confident in God's Character - God Protects & Makes A Way

Hebrews 11:33b-34a, Book of Daniel

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*"Who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames..." (Hebrews 11:33-34).*

The book of Hebrews reminds us that faith is not simply believing in God when life is easy. Faith is trusting Him when the outcome is uncertain. Hebrews 11 points us to men and women who remained faithful through impossible circumstances and witnessed God's power at work. Among those stories are Daniel in the lions' den and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace.

These faithful men were living in Babylon, surrounded by a culture that did not honor God. They faced intense pressure to compromise their faith, yet they remained steadfast in their commitment to the Lord.

In Daniel 3, King Nebuchadnezzar commanded everyone to bow before a golden image. Refusal meant being thrown into a blazing furnace. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego courageously refused. Their response remains one of the greatest statements of faith in Scripture:

*"If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it... But even if He does not, we want you to know... we will not serve your gods" (Daniel 3:17-18).*

Their faith was not based on receiving the outcome they desired. Their faith was rooted in God's character. They knew God was able to rescue them, but they trusted Him even if He chose a different path.

When the men were thrown into the furnace, God did not keep them from the fire. Instead, He joined them in it. The king looked into the flames and saw four men walking unharmed, and the fourth looked *"like a son of the gods"* (Daniel 3:25).

God's protection did not mean the absence of hardship. It meant His presence in the middle of it.

Many women understand what it feels like to walk through a fire. We experience seasons of grief, disappointment, fear, uncertainty, and loss. We often pray for God to remove the trial, but sometimes He chooses instead to walk with us through it.

One of the most difficult weekends of my life taught me this truth in a deeply personal way.

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On a Friday morning, I experienced a miscarriage. I was heartbroken, grieving, and emotionally exhausted. The loss was overwhelming, and all I wanted to do was stay home and process the pain. My leader knew exactly what had happened. Yet he told me I still needed to attend a women's retreat that weekend with the ladies from my corps.

At the time, I struggled to understand why. Everything within me wanted to withdraw from people. I didn't feel like talking, worshiping, or participating in a retreat. Yet I chose to be obedient and went.

Looking back, I can now see God's hand in that difficult decision.

No one at the retreat knew what I was carrying in my heart and in my body, yet God did. Throughout the weekend, four different women approached me at separate times and prayed over me. None of them knew about the miscarriage. None of them knew about the grief I was carrying. Yet each one was prompted by the Holy Spirit to encourage and pray over me.

Those moments became powerful reminders that God had heard the cries of my heart. He knew exactly what I needed when I felt too broken to ask for help. Through the prayers of those women, God gave me strength, comfort, and reassurance that I was not alone.

Like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, I learned that God's presence can sustain us even when the fire continues to burn. God did not remove my pain that weekend, but He met me in it. Through others' obedience and the ministry of prayer, He reminded me that He was near.

Daniel's story teaches a similar lesson:

In Daniel 6, a law was passed prohibiting prayer to anyone except the king. Daniel could have compromised. Instead, he continued to pray to God three times a day, just as he always had.

His faithfulness led him directly into a den of lions.

Again, God did not prevent the trial. Daniel spent the night surrounded by hungry lions. Yet God protected him. The next morning, King Darius called out anxiously, "*Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you?*" (Daniel 6:20).

Daniel replied, "*My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions*" (Daniel 6:22).

This is the very event referenced in Hebrews 11 when it speaks of those who "shut the mouths of lions." Likewise, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are remembered among those who "*quenched the fury of the flames.*" Their stories became testimonies of God's faithfulness for generations to come.

What stands out in both accounts is not simply the miracle. It is the unwavering faith of God's people before the miracle ever arrived.

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Faith does not mean we understand the outcome. Faith means we trust the One who holds the outcome.

Sometimes God parts the waters. Sometimes He calms the storm. Sometimes He rescues us from the fire, and sometimes He walks beside us through it. In every circumstance, He remains faithful.

As women of faith, we may face our own furnaces and lion's dens. We may encounter grief, disappointment, illness, fear, or uncertainty. Yet the same God who protected Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego is still at work today.

Perhaps you are facing a difficult situation right now. Take heart. God sees you. He knows your circumstances. He has not abandoned you.

Hebrews 11 reminds us that ordinary people who placed their trust in an extraordinary God experienced His power and presence. Their stories encourage us to keep trusting, even when the path ahead is unclear.

Whatever challenge you face today, remember this truth: God protects, God provides, and God makes a way. His presence is stronger than the fire, greater than the lions, and sufficient for every season.

#### Prayer:

Lord, thank you for being our protector and provider. When we face trials, help us trust You as Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did. Give us courage to remain faithful, confidence in Your promises, and peace in Your presence. Remind us that even when the path is difficult, You are making a way. In Jesus' name, Amen.

#### Special Music:

These songs beautifully reinforce the message that God is present in our trials and faithfully makes a way when there seems to be none.

- Way Maker - Leeland ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJCV\\_2H9xD0&t=62s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJCV_2H9xD0&t=62s))
- Another in the Fire - Hillsong United (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ScK3v5gcBK0&t=3s>)