



Even If

Many of us will be and are committed to the Lord if things go well. Because we know that He will deliver us and provide for us, we have become committed to Him. The problem with attitude is that it will not always stand the test of time. What happens if there is an issue with the manifestation or breakthrough? The right position should be that no matter what happens you will be committed to God, in sickness, in poverty, and so forth. If we can make that vow to our spouses, how much more to God Almighty?

Daniel 3:17-18 "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."

One look at this verse could be:

A deeper study of the words "If it be so" and "If not or if it be not" reveals that this passage is saying that "If it be so that you throw us into the furnace, our God will deliver us. If it be not so (if you change your mind and don't throw us in the furnace) be it known to you that we still won't serve your gods.

- The reasoning to this is: If God has said He will deliver you, then why say even if He doesn't? He either will or won't, but not both.

The second look at this verse: That I'm teaching about here.

Another way to look at this response is that these verses bring out a level of commitment that all believers should have. God always comes through for us, but that does not mean we will always see the manifestation for that thing we are believing for.

This passage of scripture can come off as a statement of doubting God or double-mindedness however, what I want to point out is **an expression of a commitment to the Lord above all else and regardless of what the results are**. A commitment based on a person, not on the results. It is clear that these men were in a relationship with the Lord and their reaction further proves it. There is a difference between knowing God and knowing about God. Some people know God with their heads but have no relationship with Him from their hearts. This was not the case for Mishael, Hananiah, and Azariah.

Notice the attitude that these men had. This is one of the views on life that is missing today. Few people are sold out for the Lord like these men were. How far are you willing to believe, trust, and stay committed to the Lord? Is it up until you get whatever you are believing for or even if you don't? To what extent are you going to stay committed to the Lord?

"A few people would stand and do what's right if they firmly believed the Lord would deliver them from any negative consequences. But very few people would do what's right if they knew they would die for it." —Andrew Wommack

- a) These men believed God for deliverance but were also willing to die than to compromise. They were so determined not to give up on God, even if it looked like He did not come through for them. In other words, should it be that God did not come through for whichever reason and deliver them from this fiery furnace, they were not going to worship this golden image of Nebuchadnezzar nor serve his gods. In the same way, we have to be willing to do the right thing regardless of the cost—lives, health, family and so forth.
- b) Although God delivered Meshack, Shadrack, and Abednego, it is not always the case for all others as we see from the scriptures. **There was no direct proof that God was going to intervene. He had not told any of these guys that He would.** True, these three men believed God for intervention, but they were not going to do what is wrong to make deliverance come by their own hands.

- c) In Acts 7:58-60, Stephen was not delivered for reasons we do not know right now. In Acts 12:2, Herod killed James while in Acts 12:7, Peter was delivered from that same sword. Therefore, we should not build our trust in the Lord based solely on deliverance, healing, and breakthrough. Sure, it is God's heart and will to heal and deliver us, but there are other factors that could hamper the manifestation of the things we desire and are believing for from the Lord. God is unchanging (the same yesterday, today and forever—Hebrews 13:8), but things of this life aren't. We should build our relationship on the Lord, not on the results of that relationship such as healing, deliverance, financial breakthrough, and many more.
- d) **We have to develop an attitude that we will praise God, love God regardless of the results from what we are believing for.**
- e) How far are you willing to believe, love and trust God? Is it up until you receive what you need, or even though you never receive it? Although there are benefits to a relationship with God such as healing, financial breakthrough, deliverance, peace, long life, are we willing to continue to love and worship God whether we see those things or not? Are we in love with the Lord for things or for Him? Even if God doesn't open the next door, **are you willing to praise Him in the hallway?**
- f) Many people are mad at God for something that they believed for and never materialized. If it had materialized, they would be loving God and praising Him. What a sorry state to be in! **Our attitude should be, "No matter what happens, I will serve the Lord."** If I die in the process, then so be it, if I never see what I am believing for, I won't quit on God. Now I know that is a big statement, but that should be our attitude. We should be making this decision now before anything else comes up to challenge us. In other words, we should be making pre-decisions or predetermined choices of what we will do if what we are believing for doesn't happen to meet our expectations. What are you going to do if your expectations are shattered?

Are you going to stay committed to the Lord and not give up on Him nor compromise even if things happen against what you are or have been believing for such as the death of a loved one, a child born with deformities, death of a spouse, child, cancer, AIDS and

so forth? Will you stay committed to the Lord even if you never got the victory you desire in those areas?

A. At midnight

“Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. —Acts 16:24-28

- a) Paul and Silas were not praising God in order to get deliverance. They were praising God because He is a good God regardless of what they were going through at that moment. If they were praising God to do something like delivering them, which He could and would do, they would have stormed out of that jail as quickly as possible the time the earthquake came, the chains fell off of them, and the prison doors were opened. These men had their love for God based on who He is, not on their deliverance. What an attitude!
- b) This is profound. It is the same attitude as the three Hebrew men, but this was displayed differently. Paul and Silas were in love with the Lord and were out to love and serve the Lord even if it cost their lives—even if deliverance never came.
- c) When they were being thrown in jail, they had no word from the Lord about their deliverance, yet they praise God, nonetheless. How many people would be willing to do that? Remember, they had been beaten severely and then thrown in jail with bands on their hands and feet.

B. “Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and

prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime. Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee. —Daniel 6:10, 16

- a) Daniel also refused to give up on God in order to save his neck. He praised and gave thanks to God as he did before and was willing to not to pray to King Darius as “God” even if it cost his life.
- b) He had no promise of deliverance from God as we see in the scripture apart from the words of the king saying that his God would deliver him, yet Daniel refused to pray to the false “god,” king Darius but to the True Living God.
- c) Whether deliverance came or not, Daniel was not going to pray to King Darius as God.
- d) Notice the King knew that Daniel served the Lord continually. In other words, Daniel did not start serving and seeking the Lord the day he was getting thrown in the den of lions. It was evident to all that he served His God faithfully. The King was not shocked by Daniel’s response because this is the way Daniel lived—serving the True Living God. He had relationship with God.

C. Blessed be the name of the Lord

And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. —Job 1:21

- a) Although Job did not know a lot about the Lord, he had the right attitude when the enemy struck. He worshipped and praised God as the first response. This would not have been his natural response if he had no relationship with God. Job 1:1 says that Job was perfect, upright, and that He feared the Lord and eschewed evil.

- b) I'm not here saying that we shouldn't believe God for the best because we will not always get it, but I'm saying we should believe, love and seek God **regardless** of the outcome of what we are believing for.
- i) Are you going to love God only if things go your way? I don't know anyone who has received 100% results from God. **Are you going to base your trust and love for the Lord on your results and outcomes or on His unchanging goodness?**
 - ii) If you are going to worship God because of what **He offers, not because of who He is, we have a problem.**
 - iii) What would you do in a situation like Jobs when all he had was attacked and destroyed by Satan? Will you curse God, or will you praise?
 - iv) We should be loving God and **seeking His face, not His hand.**
 - o We should be after the Healer, not the healing. If we get the Healer, we have the healing.
- c) Many of us are willing to praise God after crossing the red sea and are at the other side, but few of us are willing to praise **God before crossing the red sea, and in the middle of the red sea.**
- i) We ought to praise the Lord at all sides of the red sea—before, in the middle and after crossing it!
- d) It will take time to cultivate this attitude. We can't wait for the time of trouble to begin to seek the Lord. This has to be our lifestyle.
- i) If you wait for the big occasions, but neglect the small ones always before you, you will never be able to have the same level of commitment and attitude of the three Hebrew men, Paul and Silas, or Job.

- ii) For us to have the right attitude during big challenges, we must first defeat the small hardships we encounter regularly with the right attitude.

- iii) If we do not have the right attitude towards God in minor matters, we will not have it during the bigger matters. We should learn not to compromise but be faithful in the small (Luke 16:10-12), and then will we endure in the bigger matters.

- e) Many times, we look at a person who responds like the three Hebrew men, Paul and Silas and Job or someone else who prays one minute and gets powerful results and then we think, "Why have I not seen the same results like him. I prayed the way they have." Little do we know that that person has been seeking the Lord for hundreds of hours, years and so forth. For us all we see is the one-minute prayer but there is much more to it that is been done in the background to prepare and get to the place where they are. There are no short cuts. We must put in the time and be faithful. **It took someone forty years to get to a place where they do what they do effectively. It did not take just one day of fasting and prayer. No shortcuts. You must put in the time. Preparation time is not wasted time.**
 - i) The bottom line is a relationship with God. This is what all this comes down to.

 - ii) What is the foundation of your relationship with God?
 - Is it based on a person or on the results of what you are believing for?

D. Although the fig tree shall not blossom

Habakkuk 3:17-18 "Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments."

This passage of scripture is painting the worst possible situation. It is paining loss, emptiness, lack and so forth. But look at the attitude of Habakkuk in the midst of it all.

- a) Although the fig tree shall not blossom,
- b) neither shall fruit be in the vines;
- c) the labor of the olive shall fail,
- d) and the fields shall yield no meat;
- e) the flock shall be cut off from the fold,
- f) and there shall be no herd in the stalls:

Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

Some of us are willing to praise God, but few of us are willing to praise God on both sides of the Red Sea. If we are willing to praise God in the hallway, doors will open.

E. Eternity mindset

If we are going to have the right attitude in times of hardships, we have to develop an eternity mindset. **We must hold the things of this life loosely. Hold the things of this life with your weakest hand and hold on to Jesus with your strongest hand.** If we think or believe that this is all that there is to life, we will compromise and do anything to save the temporary things of this life. There is a better life than this life. God forbid, if we die in the process of believing God, we go to be in His presence forever. If you aren't living for eternity, you are taking up so much space.

- a) "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. —Romans 8:18

b) "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. —2 Corinthians 4:17-18

c) I believe that this eternity mindset was key to how all these men viewed life and therefore reacted. Matthew 6:20 says, "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:"

"You need to think more about eternity and not less." "When you live in the light of eternity, your values change." —Rick Warren