

HOW TO RECOGNIZE WHEN YOU OVERCAME A TEST

By: Fountain Hendricks

Daniel 6:21-28

Tests come and go. Whether you realize it or not you are tested everyday. Most times, you do not even realize it. Tests can come in a variety of ways. They can come as minor bumps in the road or major mountains.

God told us we would be tested. We are tested to build our character, strengthen our faith and too mature in the Kingdom of God. Majority of the people can sense when they are being tested. However, the vast majority cannot recognize when they have **PASSED THE TEST**.

THE RECEPTION OF HONOR

When you receive honor, compliments, rewards, celebrations, gifts or any of the such from the testing of your faith you have **SUCCESSFULLY** passed your current test. For example, if someone was attacking your character, the moment you receive honor from other people on how you handled the situation you have passed the test.

If you had a major setback in your business and you lost credibility and profitability, yet you stood your ground, worked hard and restored the reputation of your business, the moment you are celebrated or complimented you passed your test.

The reception of **HONOR** is the **EVIDENCE** of victory. No one praises failure. No one praises losers. Praise is received when victory is attained. When Daniel was in the lions den, facing the threat of being devoured by

ferocious lions **NO ONE** was giving Him honor. During the process of him being tested he was afraid for his life.

It wasn't until **AFTER** the angel of the Lord shout the lions mouth that he was honored by king Darius. Daniel 6: 21-28 says, "Daniel answered, "O king, live forever! My God sent his angel to close the lions' mouths. They have not hurt me, because my God knows I am innocent. I never did anything wrong to you, O king."

King Darius was very happy and told his servants to lift Daniel out of the lions' den. So they lifted him out and did not find any injury on him, because Daniel had trusted in his God. Then the king commanded that the men who had accused Daniel be brought to the lions' den.

They, their wives, and their children were thrown into the den. The lions grabbed them before they hit the floor of the den and crushed their bones. Then King Darius wrote a letter to all people and all nations, to those who spoke every language in the world:

I wish you great peace and wealth. I am making a new law for people in every part of my kingdom. All of you must fear and respect the God of Daniel. Daniel's God is the living God; he lives forever.

His kingdom will never be destroyed, and his rule will never end. God rescues and saves people and does mighty miracles in heaven and on earth. He is the one who saved Daniel from the power of the lions. So Daniel was successful during the time Darius was king and when Cyrus the Persian was king."

Remember Shadrach, Meshack and Abednego? They were tested and honored. These three Hebrew boys were thrown into a fiery furnace after they refused to worship the idol image of king Nebuchadnezzar.

NO ONE honored the three Hebrew boys when they were thrown into the fire. They were honored **AFTER** they came out of the fire without being burned.

"Daniel 6:14-30 says, "Nebuchadnezzar said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, is it true that you do not serve my gods nor worship the gold statue I have set up? In a moment you will again hear the sound of the horns, flutes, lyres, zithers, harps, pipes, and all the other musical instruments.

If you bow down and worship the statue I made, that will be good. But if you do not worship it, you will immediately be thrown into the blazing furnace. What god will be able to save you from my power then?" Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, saying, "Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves to you.

If you throw us into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from the furnace. He will save us from your power, O king. But even if God does not save us, we want you, O king, to know this: We will not serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."

Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and he changed his mind. He ordered the furnace to be heated seven times hotter than usual. Then he commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie

up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace.

So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were tied up and thrown into the blazing furnace while still wearing their robes, trousers, turbans, and other clothes. The king's command was very strict, and the furnace was made so hot that the flames killed the strong soldiers who threw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the furnace.

Firmly tied, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego fell into the blazing furnace. Then King Nebuchadnezzar was so surprised that he jumped to his feet. He asked the men who advised him, "Didn't we tie up only three men and throw them into the fire?" They answered, "Yes, O king."

The king said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire. They are not tied up, and they are not burned. The fourth man looks like a son of the gods."

Then Nebuchadnezzar went to the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego,

come out! Servants of the Most High God, come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the fire.

When they came out, the governors, assistant governors, captains of the soldiers, and royal advisers crowded around them and saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies. Their hair was not burned, their robes were not burned, and they didn't even smell like smoke!

Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Their God has sent his angel and saved his servants from the fire! These three men trusted their God and refused to obey my command. They were willing to die rather than serve or worship any god other than their own.

So I now give this command: Anyone from any nation or language who says anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego will be torn apart and have his house turned into a pile of stones. No other god can save his people like this." Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the area of Babylon."

The Lord **ALWAYS** promotes His people **AFTER** they have passed their test. The reception of honor is **EVIDENCE** you have qualified to receive a higher ranking and position in God's Kingdom. God's promotion will make you great in the Kingdom **WHILE** influential in the world.

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