

*"I can do all things through Christ Which Strengtheneth Me." Philippians 4:13 KJV*

From bridges to skyscrapers, steel re-bar binds the concrete into a much stronger substance than it would be alone, which withstands stresses that would render concrete into powder. When Jesus Christ becomes your life and you live by His Power and not your own, His Presence enables you to bear burdens that crush ordinary men. "For it is God which WORKETH IN YOU both to WILL and to DO of His Good Pleasure." What consumes ordinary men in an instant only serves to free us from bondage. We stroll calmly in the midst of the inferno, because God Himself walks with us! But, we must be of the same mind as the



three Hebrew children if we would overcome through Christ. "Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, 'Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?' Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, 'O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. 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.' Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury...cast them into the burning fiery furnace...and...the flame...slew those men that took [them]. Then Nebuchadnezzar the king...said, 'Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?...Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.'" (Dan. 3) Believers do not escape the furnace of temptation, trial, and trouble; they triumph in it by virtue of the very Son of God. We come forth from the furnace unfettered without the faintest hint that we endured anything at all, because of faith in the Word of God which we keep hidden in our souls. Until not even the threat of death dissuades our faith, we will be at the mercy of the idol worshippers. Fear of death is the greatest idol of unbelievers as they spend their lives and fortunes to waylay and avoid it! They will come with reason, fanfare, threats, and promises in an attempt to make us subject to their gods, but we must resist steadfastly in our faith in Christ even in the face of death! I'm sure the three Hebrew children fully expected to be burned alive in the furnace, but remained resolute, regardless! If we walk through death's door with Christ, we will never part again. If you are more concerned with doing things the world's way than pleasing God, beware! You may be one of those consumed as you throw God's children to the flames!

Christ will strengthen feeble souls,  
Who by Truth are fed, consoled,  
They'll walk in flames of evil's fire,  
'Twill harm no thread of their attire. –CGP

When things become uncomfortable or threatening, remember who walks beside you, Dear Christian! Not even the hottest flames may touch you, though you are surrounded by them if you are walking with Jehovah. Cheerful obedience of God's Word is the Path of Christ. Your protection is found in nearness to Christ!

*"Therefore take no thought, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or, 'What shall we drink?' or, 'Wherewithal shall we be clothed?' (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your Heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His Righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:31-33 KJV*