



Rock Point Church

Bill Bush | 9.27.26

Big Idea

Love doesn't avoid, it overcomes!

1 John 5:1-5 (NLT)

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God. And everyone who loves the Father loves his children, too. ²We know we love God's children if we love God and obey his commandments. ³Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith. ⁵And who can win this battle against the world? Only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

1 John 5:21 (NLT)

²¹Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts.

Daniel 3:8-18 (NLT)

⁸But some of the astrologers went to the king and informed on the Jews. ⁹They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "Long live the king!

¹⁰You issued a decree requiring all the people to bow down and worship the gold statue when they hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes, and other musical instruments. ¹¹That decree also states that those who refuse to obey must be thrown into a blazing furnace. ¹²But there are some Jews—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—whom you have put in charge of the province of Babylon. They pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They refuse to serve your gods and do not worship the gold statue you have set up.”

¹³Then Nebuchadnezzar flew into a rage and ordered that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought before him. When they were brought in, ¹⁴Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you refuse to serve my gods or to worship the gold statue I have set up? ¹⁵I will give you one more chance to bow down and worship the statue I have made when you hear the sound of the musical instruments. But if you refuse, you will be thrown immediately into the blazing furnace. And then what god will be able to rescue you from my power?”

¹⁶Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. ¹⁷If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty.

¹⁸But even if he doesn’t, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up.”

OVERCOMERS CHOOSE OBEDIENCE OVER OUTCOMES.

Daniel 3:19-30 (NLT)

¹⁹Nebuchadnezzar was so furious with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face became distorted with rage. He commanded that the furnace be heated seven times hotter than usual. ²⁰Then he ordered some of the strongest men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. ²¹So they tied them up and threw them into the furnace, fully dressed in their pants, turbans, robes, and other garments. ²²And because the king, in his anger, had demanded such a hot fire in the furnace, the flames killed the soldiers as they threw the three men in. ²³So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, securely tied, fell into the roaring flames.

²⁴But suddenly, Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in amazement and exclaimed to his advisers, “Didn’t we tie up three men and throw them into the furnace?”

“Yes, Your Majesty, we certainly did,” they replied.

²⁵“Look!” Nebuchadnezzar shouted. “I see four men, unbound, walking around in the fire unharmed! And the fourth looks like a god!”

²⁶Then Nebuchadnezzar came as close as he could to the door of the flaming furnace and shouted: “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!”

So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stepped out of the fire.

²⁷Then the high officers, officials, governors, and advisers crowded around them and saw that the fire had not touched them. Not a hair on their heads was singed, and their clothing was not scorched. They didn’t even smell of smoke!

²⁸Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He sent his angel to rescue his servants who trusted in him. They defied the king’s command and were

willing to die rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

²⁹Therefore, I make this decree: If any people, whatever their race or nation or language, speak a word against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, they will be torn limb from limb, and their houses will be turned into heaps of rubble. There is no other god who can rescue like this!”

³⁰Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to even higher positions in the province of Babylon.

OVERCOMERS CHOOSE PRESENCE OVER PREFERENCE.

What idol is keeping me idle?

Romans 8:35-39 (NLT)

³⁵Can anything ever separate us from Christ’s love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ³⁶(As the Scriptures say, “For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.”) ³⁷No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

³⁸And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. ³⁹No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Response

What furnace are you avoiding?

Marriage, Finances, Direction, Singles wanting marriage, Work, Family, Dads, Moms, Parents, Community.

Name the furnace. Name one place you've obeyed only on the condition of a certain outcome. Keep obeying without that condition this week.

GROUPS QUESTIONS:

1. What stood out to you most in this week's message, and why
2. Think of a time you assumed a certain outcome because you had faith, only for the situation to turn out completely different. How did that affect you?
3. Read 1 John 5:1–5. Why is it so tempting to separate obedience from love and reduce faith to mere feelings? What makes obedience feel crushing at times, and how does resting in His love change that weight?
4. Read 1 John 4:19 and Romans 8:37. How does trusting that God's love already proved itself on the cross give us the strength to overcome rather than avoid hard things?
5. Read Daniel 3:16–18. How would you describe the difference between obeying for an outcome versus obeying out of devotion
6. Read Daniel 3:24–26. How does the promise of His presence give you comfort when obedience costs you your preferences, comfort, or control?
7. Read Hebrews 10:24–25. What fears or hesitations make people want to keep their faith private and avoid the vulnerability of being deeply known in a group?
8. Read 1 John 5:21. What comfort, control, or desired outcome are you most tempted to prioritize over God right now?

9. What is one specific area of your life (such as marriage, work, finances, or family) where you have made your obedience conditional on a certain outcome, and how can you step into faithful obedience without conditions this week?