

I Will Not Bow!

The world has bowed to a lot less than the music of this world. They have bowed to more disgraceful things.

They have for generation **bowed to every commandment of man** but has refused to bow to the one that can save their soul.

But there have been people.... of every generation **that has put their life on the line for the sake of the gospel.**

For the sake of the King of Kings the redeemer.

They feared not death by man they feared the eternal separation from God more than anything else.

Here are a just a few of the heroes of the Bible. The men and women who said to the rulers of their day **"I WILL NOT BOW!"**

Daniel 3:4-7 Then a herald cried aloud: "To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, 5 that at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, **you shall fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up;** 6 and ***whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.***" 7 So at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the horn, flute, harp, and lyre, in symphony with all kinds of music, all the people, nations, and languages **fell down and worshiped the gold image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.** (They were lost)

You may not be **put to the test** as these people were in this modern day and time.

You **may not face death** as these were so willing to do.

Your families **will not be stoned to death** neither drug through the streets of your city until they die.

You may not be **thrown into a den of lions** or **thrown into a fiery furnace.**

You may not be **crucified like Jesus, boiled in oil like John** or **have your head cut off like James.**

You may not have to **face the horrible death** that some have faced **because** they said **"I WILL NOT BOW!!"**

But **Satan doesn't stop** because that Civilization has come to our country.

He is no respecter of person **he comes to the rich... the poor, the lost... those who think they are saved** and especially those **who have made a great change in their lives especially those that Know Christ and have said, "I WILL NOT BOW!"**

But **he has a way of getting people to bow.**

1. He will have people to **mock those who dare to be different** in this day of popularity.
2. He will have people to **criticize you for what you stand for** and **who you stand for.**
3. He makes people **believe** that all you must do is **know God and you are saved.**

He will not remind you that Jesus himself said this:

John 14:15 - Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit - **"If you love me, keep my commands.**

The rules of the world are **enforced by the law of man** but –

The commandments of God are enforced by the creator and must be obeyed by mankind if he expects to be saved.

Romans 14:11-12 - 11 For it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God." ***This is the one we bow to.***
12 So then each of us **shall give account** of himself to God.

How many people **refuse to keep the commandment of God?** **But they bow to the world.**

Daniel 3:10-11 10 You, O king, have made a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the gold image; 11 and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

Most of this modern world has no fear of God, no love for truth and surely no love to die for a God they have never seen.

But there were ***three Hebrew Children that knew the God they served could deliver them*** from such a horrible death.

I'm sure they didn't want to die that day... I am sure their minds ran wild with the thought of burning to death.

But I am also sure they thought of how good God was to them.

How powerful He was in their life and there was a respect and love for God... more than the desire to be spared by denying Him.

This is what true love of God is all about..... "I WILL NOT BOW!!"

The King questioned them about their God.

Daniel 3:12-14 - 12 There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up."

13 Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. So they brought these men before the king.

14 Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up?"

Here the king gives them their choice:

Daniel 3:15 - Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?"

People all over the world...**bow to the commandments of others** -

- **They bow to the world.**
- **They bow to the criticism of others.**
- **They bow to every ungodly god *that Satan has created*.**

But here is the answer of the ones who are sold out not bought out:

Daniel 3:16-18 - 16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.

17 If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king.

18 But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.

What dedication..... what a powerful testimony for these three Hebrew men. We will not bow!

- When your classmates criticize you “Don’t BOW!
- When your employers criticize you “DON’T BOW!
- When the teachers criticize you DON’T BOW!
- **When your friends and family criticize you DON’T BOW**

- Just because they don’t like your dedication to Jesus “DON’T BOW!
- If they threaten you “DON’T BOW!
- If you lose your position “DON’T BOW!

The day you bow is the day you become a loser; you lose your relationship with God.

The king was furious at their response:

Daniel 3:19-20 - Saved in Fiery Trial - 19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated.

20 And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, and cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

Satan never gives up.... but he never wins against a person who says, “I WILL NOT BOW!**”**

Now here is the power of a testimony of **I WILL NOT BOW!**

Daniel 3:21-23 – 21 Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

22 Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego.

23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

In the middle of your worst nightmare ***the power of God is with you.***

Daniel 3:24-25 - 24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king."

25 "Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."

- Your peers may think ***they have won*** once ***they make it hot enough for you***
- ***But the God*** of this universe the mighty God himself
- ***Will deliver*** those who say, "***I WILL NOT BOW!!***"

Listen to the word of the Lord God... He will take your persecutors and make them bow to him.

Listen what the King said in Daniel 3:26-30.... Nebuchadnezzar Praises God -

26 Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spoke, saying, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here." Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire. 27 And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king's counselors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them.

- ***upon whose bodies the fire had no power,***
- nor was a hair of their head singed,
- neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

28 Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!

29 Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this.”

Faithfulness will make a believer out of even the wicked.

30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon.

You will never win your family **by bowing to the pressure**.

You will never win your classmates **by bowing to their criticism**.

You will never win your teachers, boss or anyone else **by bowing to their demands**.

The King became a believer in the God that cannot fail because Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego said “WE WILL NOT BOW!!

CLOSE: You will never make them believe like this king did in the end if you give in and give up.

The King said, “because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.”

I will not BOW!!

- I won't change what I believe because they don't like it.
- You need to tell them I won't change truth because you don't like it.
- I won't listen to your ungodly music, watch your ungodly movies.
- I will not Bow.

We need to learn that we are to be an example to this world Paul wrote,

2 Cor. 3:2 - You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone.

Are lives being an open letter to this world, and what we do is read every day everywhere we go, we need to show this world that we WILL NOT BOW!!

God is not looking for people to join the crowds of unbelievers, but he is looking for people that will not bow and change because of what people think or do to them.....

God is looking for people that only bow to him and love him. Is that you?