

Blurred Lines Part 3: Living a Stand-up Life in a Bow-down World

*"Be on your guard; **stand firm in the faith**; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love."*

1 Corinthians 16:13-14 NIV

*"King Nebuchadnezzar made an **image of gold**, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up. So the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials assembled for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up, and they stood before it. Then the herald loudly proclaimed, "Nations and peoples of every language, this is what you are commanded to do: As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, **you must fall down and worship the image** of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace." Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp and all kinds of music, all the nations and peoples of every language fell down and worshiped the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up." Daniel 3:1-7 NIV*

*"But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—who pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up. Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "**Is it true**, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? I'll give you one more chance. When the music plays, if you fall down and worship the statue, all will be well. But if you refuse, you will be thrown into a flaming furnace within the hour. And **what god can deliver you out of my hands then?**" Daniel 3:12-15 NIV/TLB*

✓ Standing firm takes courage.

*"Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we are **not worried** about what will happen to us." Daniel 3:16 NIV*

Courage isn't the absence of fear. Courage is standing firm in spite of my fear.

✓ Standing firm takes faith.

*"If we are thrown into the flaming furnace, our **God is able** to deliver us; and he will deliver us out of your hand, Your Majesty. But if he doesn't, please understand, sir, that even then we will never under any circumstance serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have erected." Daniel 3:17-18 TLB*

If we don't stand for something, we'll fall for anything.

*"Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury and his face became dark with anger at Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He commanded that the furnace be heated up **seven times hotter** than usual, and called for some of the strongest men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and throw them into the fire. So they bound them tight with ropes and threw them into the furnace, fully clothed. And because the king, in his anger, had demanded such a hot fire in the furnace, the flames leaped out and killed the soldiers as they threw them in! So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego fell down bound into the roaring flames. But suddenly, as he was watching, Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in amazement and exclaimed to his advisors, "Didn't we throw three men into the*

furnace?" "Yes," they said, "we did indeed, Your Majesty." "Well, look!" Nebuchadnezzar shouted. **"I see four men, unbound, walking around in the fire, and they aren't even hurt by the flames! And the fourth looks like the son of god!"** Then Nebuchadnezzar came as close as he could to the open door of the flaming furnace and yelled: "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, **servants of the Most High God!** Come out! Come here!" So they stepped out of the fire. Then the princes, governors, captains, and counselors crowded around them and saw that the fire hadn't touched them—not a hair of their heads was singed; their coats were unscorched, and they didn't even smell of smoke!" Daniel 3:19-27 NIV

✓ Standing firm inspires others.

"Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way." Then the king **promoted** Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon." Daniel 3:28-30 NIV

Be a voice, not an echo.

1. Stand in prayer.

"Put on the full armor of God so that you can **take your stand** against the devil's schemes... Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then... and **pray** in the Spirit on all occasions with **all kinds** of prayers and requests. With this in mind **keep on praying** for all the Lord's people." Ephesians 6:11, 13-14 NIV

2. Stand for my purpose.

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to **the work of the Lord**, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." 1 Corinthians 15:58 NIV

3. Stand for God.

"Stand up for me against world opinion and I'll stand up for you before my Father in heaven." Matthew 10:32 MSG

"Where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." Colossians 3:1 NIV

"But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." Acts 7:55-56 NIV

When I stand, Jesus stands with me.