

**THE BIG IDEA:** What the enemy uses to extinguish us, God uses to distinguish us.

### The Take-Off

Over the first few weeks of our series called “The Helper” we’ve learned who the Holy Spirit is (hint, he’s GOD!!!) and what the Holy Spirit does.

Next week, we’ll begin looking even more specifically into what he wants us to do, but first, let’s take this morning and drill down a bit more into what he does, and specifically, what he does in and to us.

We’re going to be looking at quite a few scriptures, but we’ll be kind of tethered to Daniel 3, so you’ll want to get there and put a finger, elbow, foot, something there so you can get back to it quickly.

If you get to Psalms (around the middle of the Bible), you can jet 5 or 6 books to the right and find Daniel, and while you do, let me recap some of the most important things we’ve learned to this point.

First, because the Helper is God, we can’t afford to ignore him just because we don’t always understand him. After all, he’s God, and why would we ever expect to understand God fully??

Second, the Helper is powerful, but he is a person, not a force or a power.

Third, he works change in us that eventually changes things around us.

Fourth, we can’t realistically expect to get to know the Helper without being moved by him. His power is like dynamite, and you can’t light a stick of dynamite and expect things to stay the same!

Finally, the Helper is a friend and he is FOR us. That’s so critical for us to believe, especially as we see what the Helper wants to do in us today.

For that, we’ll need to be in Daniel 3, because we’re going to see some parallels between what happened to 3 men and what the Holy Spirit wants to do in us.

Let me explain what’s happening, and then we’ll jump into our 4 main points.

First, a king sets up an idol and tells everyone to bow.

Then, 3 key leaders in his own kingdom don’t.

Finally, the other jealous leaders rat out the 3 dissenters and that’s where we pick up the story and start to see what the Helper needs to do in order to prepare us so he can SEND us out:

### 1. SETTLE us

- a. If we’re going to be sent out for God, then we’ve got to settled about God
- b. Long before the 3 men encountered a furious king and his idol, they had to have settled in their souls what mattered most
- c. When we’re settled about God, unsettling circumstances don’t unsettle us
- d. Listen to the cement in the souls of these 3 men as they sign their potential death certificate
- e. Daniel 3:16-18
- f. Being settled about God allowed them to say, and I’m paraphrasing, “God can, so we won’t even if he doesn’t”
- g. You can hear this kind of stability in Paul’s words in 2 Corinthians 1:18-22
  - No wavering (not yes and no)
  - Paul hears “amen” from God - a finality of what has been done
  - The stability of God allows us to stand firm in Christ and the Helper seals us with God
  - That seal is not subject to the circumstances that we encounter
- h. Being settled is the first step toward being moved by God and yet immovable by men
- i. That’s critical because we’ll be sent into unsettling places

### 2. ENGULF us

- a. The confidence of the 3 got them thrown into a furnace so hot it killed the men who threw them in
- b. But something was different with the 3, and to see it, we need to understand fire
- c. Welcome to Fire Academy 101
  - Hebrews 12:29 tells us that God is a consuming fire
  - Matthew 3:11 and Acts 2:4 show us (among others) that fire is a symbol of the Holy Spirit
  - Romans 8:9 tells us that the Spirit is IN us
- d. So at salvation, we all received a Spirit that is not on us, but in us and is no burning through us!
- e. And fires around us cannot consume us if we’re already consumed by the fire in us

- f. In other words, when the Helper consumes us, the fires we face can't, because the fire inside us is greater than the fires around us!
- g. I believe that these men had a fire burning in them that was hotter than the fire burning around them!
- h. Do you? Do I? Are we consumed by the Helper's fire?
- i. The sent ones are consumed ones. They are the burning ones, engulfed with the Spirit's fire.

### 3. NESTLE us

- a. I think the third thing that the Helper wants to do is nestle us
- b. Nestle means to burrow, snuggle, cuddle
- c. Weird words to use about the Helper, but this is about protection. Having a refuge, a hiding place.
- d. These 3 men were suddenly 4 and weren't even singed, didn't even smell like fire!
- e. If you've ever been around a campfire, then you know how crazy that is, because every pore of your body smells like fire and smoke, doesn't it?
- f. Psalm 91 is an affirmation of David's about how God nestles us
- g. Look at the words: shelter, rest, refuge, fortress, cover
- h. There's a lot of comfort in being nestled by the Helper, and 2 Timothy 1:14 shows us that's one of his roles
- i. He nestles us, protects us, when we find ourselves in the fire despite our trust in God to keep us out
- j. If you're in a fire now, the temptation is to think that there's been a glitch in the system, that somehow God lost track of you, but he didn't
- k. The Helper is right there in the fire with you, nestling you, shielding you, keeping you fire and smoke free

### 4. DISTINGUISH us

- a. The reason he does all that? Because there's something that needs to be done for you that can only happen in the fire.
- b. He's marking you as his!
- c. Something happened when the 3 men weren't burned up. Passing through the fire changed how the king saw them, and it was in the fire that the king called them "servants of the Most High God!" (Daniel 3:26)
- d. The fire sets us apart so that the world sees a difference in us when we're sent to them
- e. It would be great if there was another way, an easier way, but there isn't, and one of my all time favorite movie clips illustrates this perfectly
- f. Welcome to Mount Wannahockalugie
- g. [Play Finding Nemo clip]
- h. You want a different name, identity? Stay the course in the fire, and let God use it to mark you as his!
- i. The fire of the Helper distinguishes us!

### The Landing

As we start to wrap the morning up, let me read to you what is known as the 50/20 principle

It's at the end of Joseph's life - a life of betrayal and pain, one fire after another - and in the dramatic conclusion, he looks at the people who caused the most pain and says the words found in Genesis 50:20: "What you meant for evil, God meant for good."

Let me rephrase that for our Big Idea: what the enemy uses to extinguish us, God uses to distinguish us!

In fact, your greatest ministry will probably come from your greatest misery, because the fires into which we are thrown become the fires in which we are grown.

So take heart! The Helper has great plans for you - plans to use you in the greatest rescue mission ever launched - and he wants to settle you, engulf you, nestle you and distinguish you because he wants to send you.

Settle, engulf, nestle, distinguish. S-E-N-D.

Next week, we'll begin taking a deeper look at the mission he's sending us to, but this morning, let's take the time at the end to reflect on each of those 4 and make sure we're ready to be sent.

Let's pray.