

## Day One

### God Perfects Me through the Furnace

If you are facing a furnace today, are you sensing God's presence and experiencing His freedom and healing?

I pray what you have learned so far is beginning to bring you joy in your furnace. There is much more to discover, however. This week and next, we will look at the result of furnace experiences. When you understand the ultimate result of His work, you will discover the furnace to be a place of true joy. I am more and more convinced that joy found in the furnace is joy in its purest form.

Charles Stanley describes "joy" in his *In Touch Daily Devotional* (December 24, 2008). He writes, "It is not an earthly happiness, but a divine contentment that the Holy Spirit produces in us." I love what he is saying here. True joy—divine contentment—comes when we truly understand and see the result of God at work in our furnace.

Let's turn once again to our story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to see the result of their furnace.

Daniel 3:30 (NIV) reads:

Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

Daniel 2:49 (NIV) reveals to us that King Nebuchadnezzar had previously promoted these men to quite a prestigious position.