

## **Weekly Devotions: THE REFINING FIRE OF TRIALS 6**

### **For Our Faith to be like Pure Gold; We must go through the Refiner's Fire**

Prophet Malachi said; "He (God) will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord." (Mal 3: 3)

The refining process involves melting and burning the metal in the furnace to get rid of impurities and extracting the pure metal. The pure metal (gold, silver or iron) is then shaped into ornaments or vessels for use or display.

For our faith to be authentic and precious like pure gold, God needs to refine us through fiery trials to expose our weaknesses and what is sinful in our heart. Trials reveal to us the true condition of our faith; exposing and removing all that are superficial and impure, making our faith genuine and precious like pure gold.

### **Read 1 Peter 1: 6-9**

Peter said we are to rejoice in the midst of our sufferings as the troubles we face are temporary; while our hope in Christ would be forever. Peter said the testing of our faith though painful is under God's sovereign hand and we will emerge from it like pure gold. Like fire which does not destroy the gold; trials will not destroy our faith. It will instead make our faith genuine which is more valuable in the eyes of God than any earthly treasure.

Finally, we can rejoice in our trials for when Jesus returns, we will receive from Him the crown of glory. Our proven and tested faith will bring Him glory, praise and honor and the salvation of our souls is the eternal reward we will receive.

### *Questions to Ponder*

1. What reasons did Peter give his readers that they should rejoice in the midst of trials? In your own experience what is the greatest reason for you to rejoice and not lose hope in God?
2. What was the response of the early believers to Jesus even though they had not seen Him (8) and what did Peter say is the goal of their faith (9)?
3. When God refined you what were some 'impurities' in your faith that were exposed by your trials? How has the refining process strengthened your faith and what "offerings in righteousness" (Mal 3:3) do you bring to God as a result?