



Empowering People to Change the World

## **Refiner's Fire Part I**

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## Refiner's Fire

Everyone stand now and hold up your Bible. We have the  
"Mountain Moving"

*God can move mountains in my life,  
I will build up my faith with God's Holy Word,  
I will come alive in the power of the Holy Spirit,  
With Jesus, nothing will be impossible.*

For the past month, God has been speaking to us about a "refiners fire," a purging fire, a blue flame. Liz would come into the sanctuary and pray and kept seeing a blue and gold flame. Last week we heard from Mercy Alarid, Brian's wife of "fire coming to the Road."

So we will wait for the Worshipper Warrior sermon.

Malachi 3:1-3

*<sup>1</sup> "Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup> "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire And like launderer's soap. <sup>3</sup> He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the Lord An offering in righteousness.*

Malachi is prophet in the time of Nehemiah, as the last book of the Old Testament.

- He prophesied of the "refining fire" coming to the Jewish people.
- Even the returned Jews, when they should have learned from their past mistakes, instead return back to their immoral and careless life.
- The ritual and political reforms initiated by the post captivity leaders of Nehemiah and Ezra have not prevented serious spiritual decline among the Israelite population.

- After rebuking them in chapters 1 and 2, Malachi prophesies of the coming Messiah and the New Covenant in Christ in chapter 3.
- He speaks of a refiners fire—that the Messiah, that Jesus will be “like a refiners fire.”

### **It does not say He is a Forest Fire, but a Refiner’s Fire.**

- A forest fire burns and destroys indiscriminately.
- He says that He is a “refiner’s fire” and that makes all the difference.
- A refiner’s fire does not burn indiscriminately and does not consume completely.
- A refiner’s fire refines. It purifies. It melts down the bar of silver or gold.
  - A refiner’s fire is like a piece of ore dropped into a refinery and melted down separating out the impurities that ruin the value.
  - For example, refining silver involves the silver being place in the middle of the fire, and heated up to 1,764 degrees Fahrenheit.
  - You might have heard the story of the woman talking to the silversmith to watch the process of refining silver...

*As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities. The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot; then she thought again about the verse that says: ‘He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver.’ (Malachi 3:3) She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined. The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed. The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked*

*the silversmith, 'How do you know when the silver is fully refined?' He smiled at her and answered, 'Oh, that's easy — when I see my image in it.'*

### **Jesus is the Refining Fire**

- Jesus is the refining fire because He wants to see Himself in the Church! He is coming to His Temple, to His church as a refining fire.
- He is purifying us in order for us to experience His nature and His love, and His grace in our life.
- For example, when God wanted a witness—He called you. Now that does not just mean that we grab a bunch of 4 Spiritual Laws and go out and share our faith or go out and lay hands on the sick and pray for healing. It means He called YOU to be a witness.
  - It is not primarily what you say but who you are that makes the difference. People “witness” the Christ in you.
  - He called YOU to be a witness—who you are, how you treat people. People begin to believe in Jesus through their witnessing Jesus in you.
  - It is people seeing how you respond to problems and difficulties. How you act when the chips are down and you have big problems—they witness you.
- You are a sermon in the flesh. **2 Corinthians 3** says you are a “living epistle.”
- ***<sup>2</sup> You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; <sup>3</sup> clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.***
- When the Lord wanted to write a letter to Colorado Springs, to your school, to your spouse, He wrote it on your life.

### **David understood this flame of God's Refining Fire**

- **Psalm 26:2** *“Examine me (same word for “refine”), O Lord, and prove me; Try my mind and my heart. For your lovingkindness is before my eyes and I have walked in truth”*
- **Psalm 12:6** *“The words of the Lord are pure words, like silver tried in a furnace on the earth. Purified seven times.”*
- **Psalm 17:3** *“You have tested (refined) my heart; you have visited me in the night. You have tried me...”*
- For example, you do not give a testimony, you are a testimony. You are the 67<sup>th</sup> book of the Bible.
  - And God tests you so that your life will be a living example of the Living God that you profess!
  - God will take you through trials and difficulties and He is testing you and refining you!
  - Life is life. You will go through stuff that is hard.
  - God’s refining fire is at work—if you do not go there, you will miss out on His joy.
  - Testing has come! We say, “I have done my quota...Devil go visit someone else’s house! Leave me alone.”
  - We do not get to order our days—God orders our days!
  - Afflictions are God’s way of refining in our life. He is present in troubles. He is present in difficulties.
  - He is an “ever present help in trouble” not from trouble.
  - You cannot escape life—you will go through crisis.

## **We can See God with a Purified Heart**

- The Bible says, “Blessed (or joyful) are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”
- God will have a redeemed people. His banquet hall will be full of people.
- He is a refiner’s fire, purifying us so that we can have JOY!
- Joy awaits the pure in heart! God is building wholehearted disciples.
- Who “love God with ALL of their heart, soul, mind and strength.”
- God does not abandon us, give up on us or quit loving us. We do not deserve salvation. We do not deserve His love.
- For example, God is wanting to promote many of you to a great anointing, an ability to hear His voice and move in His power with greater presence.
- He has made a covenant with us!! Look at verse 1 again:  
<sup>1</sup> ***“Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” Says the Lord of hosts.***
- Jesus is the Messenger of a new covenant, **Hebrews 8:10-12**

***<sup>10</sup> For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. <sup>11</sup> None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. <sup>12</sup> For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”***

- You and I are children of a Father who has made a New Covenant, a covenant of God’s grace within our minds and hearts.

- This New Covenant is not based in a compelling force from without—the Law and religion, but rather an ongoing impelling force and energy of the Holy Spirit from within.
- Because of the New Covenant, we have been given an entirely new heart, a new spirit within and we can now have access to Christ.

### **Hebrews 10:16-23**

***16 “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,” 17 then He adds, “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” 18 Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.***

***19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and having a High Priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.***

### **The Refiner’s Fire is a fire of True Love and Faithfulness**

- So we are His Silver! He is purifying our heart—calling us into a new elevation of His Spirit—both personally and individually, but also as a church family.
- We are a family in covenant to each other—a family whom God wants to be “one accord”. That’s covenant, being in one accord of purpose and mission together.

- It was in family that God's Spirit came to a covenant family in Jerusalem with "tongues as of fire."
- It was a "first love" fire! A First Love Fire to the Ephesian church in Revelation 2.
  - ***"you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. Nevertheless, I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen, repent and do the first works..." (Revelation 2:3-4)***