



Building Wholehearted Disciples of Jesus

Refiner's Fire, part 2

Teacher: Steve Holt

Refiner's Fire part II

Malachi 3:1-3; Romans 8:28-29

24 Hour War Room was powerful this Tuesday

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

**PP: *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."

Malachi 3:1-3

¹ "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. ² "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. ³ 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.

As we shared last week, we are speaking here of a "refiner's fire" not a forest fire. A refiner's fire refines, purifies, just as silver and gold lodged into impure objects like stone or iron ore, has to be placed into heated vat, and heated up to 1,764 degrees Fahrenheit.

- God is refining us—in our church, in our family relationships, in our marriages; and it is not fun, it is not easy.
- A Refinery pulls out the dross and the impurities of our life through heat, extreme heat. But do not miss this—it is a refining, a purifying

for God's love, joy and power to be released in greater measure in our life.

- He is making you into a living letter of his love to the world; like the silversmith who sees his reflection in the molten silver, God is desiring to see a reflection of Himself in your life.
- But you cannot get rid of your sin. You cannot purge yourself! God is the refining fire. You have to trust Him to purge you. Do not jump out of the fire! Stay in it. Do the hard work of letting the Holy Spirit purge you.
- For example, I mentioned last week that God busted me; God came in a merciful powerful way last week. I got side swiped by the Lord! I was not expecting what happened in Ouray. But He came upon me during my alone time with Him and I was so convicted in my heart! That I had to forgive some men who had deeply hurt me.
 - I was convicted that I had forgiven superficially but not deeply.
 - I was convicted that I had not forgiven from my heart but only from my head. Matthew 18:35 says to forgive from the heart.
 - And so I cried out to God and I wept and wept and wept before Him.

Romans 8:28

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

- All of us LOVE verse 28. We quote it to ourselves in hard times.
- But is it true? Do all things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose?
- For example, when someone goes through a terrible divorce and reconciliation never completely happens, did that work together for good?

- When one of our children commits suicide, does that work together for good?
- When someone slanders and gossips about you, does that work together for good?
- It may be that the phrase “all things work together for good” may have a different meaning than we suppose. Because we sure have a lot of people quoting verse 28 but not living like it’s happened to them.
 - Blaming God, blaming others, blaming their boss.
 - Just as many Christians need counseling for depression as non-Christians.
 - Something is not working here!
 - It’s because we forget the context and the whole passage.

Okay, get ready folks, this is going to knock your spiritual socks off! I’m not kidding. This is the key to the refining fire!! This is what the spiritual refining fire looks like.

Romans 8:18-25

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. 24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

- **Vs. 18** This life is full of sufferings—it’s part and parcel with life.

- But creation itself is eagerly awaiting the revealing of the “sons of God” **vs. 19.**
- Life is entropy. We are all going through a difficult journey of life in which we suffer; even creation feels the spiritual gravitational pull of sin.
- But the corruptions of our life, the struggles of this life are actually producing a longing, a hope for freedom.
- **Vs. 21-23** But the imagery Paul is using is natural for the spiritual. The picture I get as I read this is like a birth canal. We are going through a birth canal.
- So in this process we do not know how to pray so we must depend on the Spirit to pray through us (sometimes this is in tongues.)

What do we do when we are going through this groaning, this agony, this trouble? How do we “eagerly wait in perseverance?”

Romans 8: 26-27

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

²⁷ Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

1) Prayer Shift:

Be Open to a New Kind of Prayer! Praying through the Spirit—the Spirit knows how to pray through us.

- This is exactly what happened to me last week in Ouray, the Spirit took over and the mind of the Spirit took over my spirit and I began to pray through the Spirit.
- When we are going through the refining fire, Jesus is praying for you! Jesus was praying through me, in me.

Romans 8: 28-29

28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

2) Paradigm Shift.

Look at your Problems Differently. It is a paradigm shift about your problems.

- Things work together for good only if you are being conformed to the image of Christ!!
- That's the paradigm shift! God is introducing troubles into your life to put you into His refinery, His Refiner's Fire because He loves you and wants you to become more like Him.
- It's good; it's necessary; it's the Lord's Training Center.
- Look at **Hebrews 12:3-11**

3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. 4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. 5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; 6 For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." 7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? 8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. 11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful;

nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

- The word “chasten” in this passage (used 7 times), also translated “discipline” in the NAS, has the idea of being inflicted with hardships, evils and calamities.

Vs. 11 Wow. If we will not run from the Refiner’s Fire but stay in it. If we will let the Spirit transform us, discipline us, refine us, the process will yield “the peaceable fruit of righteousness.”

- New anointing in your life
- New opportunities set up by God will open up
- New peace and new power

1) Prayer Shift

2) Paradigm Shift

Romans 8:30-32

³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

3) Promotional Shift

- God is free to move and act in your life in areas that He did not have freedom before.
- Because you are under His discipline and you fear Him in a new way, He can now promote you in the Spirit.
- Look at the life of Abraham, Moses, Joseph and David. God promoted these men as they obeyed His voice in great difficulties.
- Even Jesus learned obedience through what He suffered.

- Promotions in the Spirit occur through our submission to the Spirit's chastening; that's the Refiner's Fire .
- **Vs. 32** God wants to "freely give us all things!" WOW!! Look at **vs. 37**, "All these things we are more than conquerors through Him!"
- "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom!" So, God is taking us through the refiner's fire to burn out the dross, that is preventing His presence, His Spirit to come in. He wants to be free to access new areas of your life and heart! **FREEDOM**