

Blessed Refining Fire

11-24-19

Isaiah 48:10 (NIV)

See, I have refined you, though not as silver;
I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.

God is very active in our lives and deliberate about refining us for HIS purpose. Where fire is used to refine silver by removing worthless dross, God uses afflictions to refine HIS people. God is very interested in our behavior!

Isaiah 48:11 (NIV)

For my own sake, for my own sake, I do this.

How can I let myself be defamed?
I will not yield my glory to another.

God's people represent HIM. Therefore, HE does not want to be falsely represented. God does not want us giving glory to another or bring glory to ourselves. We see this same truth of Refining Fire in an OT prophecy. In this prophecy God has harshly dealt with two-thirds of the people who have rejected HIM. God then refines the remaining one-third.

Zechariah 13:9 (ESV)

And I will put this third into the fire,
and **refine them as one refines silver,**
and **test them as gold is tested.**

They will call upon my name,
and I will answer them.
I will say, 'They are my people';
and they will say, 'The LORD is my God.'"

Refining us is important to God and we shouldn't complain about it or be afraid of it. **However, we often ask during the refining process, when does God turn down the heat?** I went to a church service 35 years ago while on a business trip. The pastor was sharing about deep struggles he had been going through. As he had been reading through the Bible the Lord showed him that he was being refined like silver. The Lord had been faithful to reveal many things to him during this refining process. **As this Pastor continued to learn, he also asked God when HE was going to turn down the heat.** During a mission trip to India, he passed by a hut where a man was refining silver as they have done for ages. The pot was over the fire, refining fire. As the ore in the pot heated up the silver melted and being heavier than the dross around it and the silver would sink to the bottom. Then the man who was refining the silver would continually skim the dross off the surface leaving the silver in the pot. **As this Pastor watched the man, he thought, I am going to ask him when he knows to turn down the heat.** Hoping to get an insight about God and his own refining fire, the Pastor asked the man, "When do you know, when to turn down the heat?" **The man said, "When I look into the pot and can see my reflection!"** When is God going to turn down our refining fire, "When HE looks down and sees HIS reflection in us!"

Blessed Refining Fire: Who?

Hebrews 12:6 (ESV)

For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and chastises every son whom he receives.

Blessed Refining Fire: Why?

2 Corinthians 4:17–18 (ESV)

¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen.

God is doing a work! God has a purpose! God wants to see HIS reflection in us!

We can recognize how God is working in our own lives, but also this gives insight how God is working in others. Oswald Chambers gives us insight on how to cooperate with God and help others! He said, “When you see a person, who is close to grasping the claims of Jesus Christ, you know that your influence has been used in the right direction. And when you begin to see that person in the middle of a difficult and painful struggle, **don’t try to prevent it, but pray that his difficulty will grow even ten times stronger,** until no power on earth or in hell could hold him away from Jesus Christ. Don’t try to be an amateur God in someone’s life. We are indeed amateurs, coming in and actually preventing God’s will and saying, ‘This person should not have to experience this difficulty.’ **Instead of helping, our sympathy gets in the way.** When we get in the way of God’s work, one day that person will say to us, ‘You are a thief; you stole my desire to follow Jesus, and because of you I lost sight of Him.’”

Don't interfere with someone else's Refining Fire, but let it burn away the dross in that person until God sees HIS reflection.

We have a hard time comprehending this, because we are blind to the HAND of God at work in other people's lives!

When we see God at work, point people to Jesus so they will cry out to the Lord and the Lord alone!

For all those going through the Blessed Refining Fire, there is ONE overriding purpose God is teaching us!

Romans 10:13 (ESV)

Everyone **who calls on the name of the Lord** will be saved.

Prophetic Team

Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current situation or impact the future.