

# Refining

8-6-23

Isaiah 48:10 (NIV)

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

**We are God’s witnesses on this earth. God’s standard is perfection which was demonstrated by Jesus Christ.**

**Therefore, God moves in our life to remove the impurities that hinder our ministry to HIM. We are saved by God’s Grace. We are totally forgiven and accepted by God just the way we are. Just as the old hymn says, “Just as I am, O Lamb of God I come.” So true but God loves us so much that HE will not leave us in our state of impurity. God will refine us to be pure silver and gold. Therefore:**

Isaiah 48:17 (NIV)

This is what the LORD says—  
your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:  
“I am the LORD your God,  
who \*teaches you what is “best” for you,  
who \*directs you in the “way” you should go.”

***\* God our Redeemer Teaches and Directs us:* the Lord actively ministers to his people. Even before we accepted Christ, God not only divinely addressed our mind, HE also directed our steps. If God had HIS Hand on us “before” we accepted Christ how much more will HE teach, direct, and refine us “after” we accepted Christ. God actively refines HIS people throughout their life. God does this so we may achieve the absolute “best” for us and be directed in the right way.**

**We must understand that God refines and tests us so that we will **solely** depend on HIM for our own good.**

Zechariah 13:9 (NIV) **NO O/H**

I will refine them like silver  
and test them like gold.

They will call on MY Name  
and I will answer them;

I will say, 'They are my people,'  
and they will say, 'The LORD is our God.'

**By refining and testing, God removes our impurities and declares, "They are MY people." And we will say, "The LORD is our God." **We start living like who we are.** As the Apostle Paul recognized, this is why God will continue to teach HIS people to rely on God and God alone.**

2 Corinthians 1:8–9 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup>For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.

<sup>9</sup>Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death.

**But** that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.

**We must learn to rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. God is very clear about why we need refining!**

2 Corinthians 4:7 (ESV)

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

**God is pleased to show us as jars of clay in order to magnify HIMSELF. Listen closely: God's power finds its full scope in human weakness! Therefore, HE may need to make us weak.**

2 Corinthians 12:9 (ESV)

My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made \*perfect in weakness. Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

**\*Perfect = Fully accomplished; Only in weakness can God's power be fully accomplished! Therefore, we should boast of our weaknesses.**

**A powerful Biblical point: "If" you are a believer, God will refine, test, or discipline you.**

Hebrews 12:5–6 (ESV) **NO O/H**

<sup>5</sup> And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. <sup>6</sup> For the Lord disciplines the one he loves and chastises every son whom he receives."

**Being refined is evidence of God's love. Therefore, we can rejoice in God's refining and joyously endure God's discipline.**

Hebrews 12:7 (NIV)

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as HIS children.

**Are you having hardship? Endure it because God is treating you as HIS son and daughter. If one never experiences God's refining or discipline, they are illegitimate children.**

**Refining and discipline go hand in hand with the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.**

2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV) **NO O/H**

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

**What are you going through now? Endure it with gladness. We should rejoice in our weakness. Learn what God is teaching us. God is refining us for HIS glory.**

**Are you struggling, God is refining you so that HE may show HIMSELF strong through you. Rejoice!**

Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.