

Fiery Trials

8-18-19 pm

* "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" **1 Peter 1:7**

* "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:" ... **1 Peter 4:12**

Introduction: I've always been a little scared of fire. (Corn field fire ... Charles Cowart)

1985 - our house fire

Lori Anne bringing her leg frame
of granite

fiery trial--like the fire by which metals are tested and their dross removed (JFB)... for the smelting of gold and silver (RWP)... It means, properly, a being on fire, burning, conflagration; and then any severe trial (Barnes)... It was not to burn them up, or a fire kindled to their destruction; but it was to prove them, whether they would conceal or deny the truth; whether they would give up Christianity, or continue true to their profession...

The Christian life is filled with the ministry of fiery trials. Yes, we often fail to envision the benefits of conflict, but without pain and sorrow we would never develop a spirit of humility, a sympathetic heart, or a longsuffering attitude. Let's see what is stated in this setting about fiery trials.

1. Passing Experiences!

According to the previous verse, the trials of our pilgrimage only last "for a season" (1:6). As the fire in the woods eventually burns out, so our difficulties ultimately turn to smoke. Times of heaviness do visit us but they do not come to stay. The story of Job reminds us that in His own time, the God over our conflicts will turn our captivity (Job 42:10).

Ex.-Job

2. Purifying Experiences!

The "trial" of our faith is likened unto "gold . . . tried with fire." As the refiner's fire rids the gold of its dross, so fiery trials purge out the fleshly impurities of our lives. If we properly respond to God's purposes, we can believe with the patriarch, "But He knoweth the way that I take: when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold" (Job 23:10).

"Smelting process"

3. Preparing Experiences!

We are being prepared for another day, a day when we will receive the end of our faith, even the salvation of our souls (vs. 1:9). The fiery trials will be behind us and a future with the Lord Jesus will be before us. What a day that will be!

Rev. A. R. (Andrew Robert) Faussett (1821-1910) comments on Malachi 3:3, "The purifier sits before the crucible, fixing his eye on the metal, and taking care that the fire be not too hot, and keeping the metal in, only until he knows the dross to be completely removed by his seeing his own image reflected (Rom 8:29) in the glowing mass. So the Lord in the case of His elect (Job 23:10; Ps 66:10; Pr 17:3; Isa 48:10; Heb 12:10; 1 Pet 1:7). He will sit down to the work, not perfunctorily, but with patient love and unflinching justice. The Angel of the Covenant, as in leading His people out of Egypt by the pillar of cloud and fire, has an aspect of terror to His foes, of love to His friends. The same separating process goes on in the world as in each Christian. When the godly are completely separated from the ungodly, the world will end. When the dross is taken from the gold of the Christian, he will be forever delivered from the furnace of trial. The purer the gold, the hotter the fire now; the whiter the garment, the harder the washing [Moore]."

Charles H. Spurgeon (1834-1892) writes, "God is too good to be unkind. He is too wise to be confused. If I cannot trace His hand, I can always trust His heart."