



## ***57. Your Fiery Ordeal***

*“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation,”* 1 Peter 4:12-13.

Persecution and trials shouldn't surprise those who follow Christ. Suffering isn't a strange happening for the righteous.

Jesus suffered and so do His followers. The Lord tests His people through various trials. Believers should rejoice ... should keep on rejoicing through their fiery ordeals. Believers rejoice because the trials help ... not because the trials hurt. *“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance,”* James 1:2-3.

David wrote, *“Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all,”* Psalm 34:19. Don't be surprised by your many trials. They are a measure of your righteousness. You should be concerned if you have no fiery ordeals. Don't be surprised by afflictions... and

don't be ashamed. *“But if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God,”* 1 Peter 4:16. Don't be ashamed even if other believers falsely judge you. Those self-appointed judges are part of your trial. God considers you worthy of His testing. *“The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, but the Lord tests hearts,”* Proverbs 17:3. Joy is the correct heart-response to God's testing. You should rejoice through your trials. What is your heart's response to your fiery ordeal?

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