



58. The Crucible of Trials

“For You have tried us, O God; You have refined us as silver is refined,” Psalm 66:10.

Silver is refined [purified] in very hot crucibles. A warm summer day might be 30 degrees Centigrade ... that’s 86 Fahrenheit. Water boils at 100C ... that’s 212F. But silver is refined to its purest form at ~1,000C [~1,830 F]. God refines us like silver. He refines us in the very hot crucible of trials.

1 Peter 1:6-7 says, “In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

The Apostle Paul wrote, *“And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us,”* Romans 5:3.

Don't fight against God's purifying crucible. Rejoice in your fiery ordeal. James wrote, *“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing,”* James 1:2-4. Trials build endurance ... which produces proven character ... which gives hope that does not disappoint. We all want to be pure like pure silver. We want hope that doesn't disappoint. But are we willing to rejoice in the crucible of tribulation? Are you letting endurance have its perfect result?

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