



# More Precious Than Gold

I Peter 1:6, 7

Malachi 3:3

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# Pure Gold

- Gold is usually found in the form of Ore.
- Not pure at all when found in nature.
- The best way to purify gold is to put it through fire.
- The more fire that it goes through, the purer the gold becomes.
- The purest gold is also the most malleable.

# The Testing Process

- Fire is used to test and purify gold.
- Fiery trials in life often are God's purification and proof process.
- Prov. 24:10 "If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy faith is small.
- By adversity, God's children are purified and made more valuable.

# Types of Fire (Adversity)

- Family members.
- Loss of Material possessions.
- Physical illness and pain.
- Discouragement and persecution by loved ones.
- Being falsely accused and lied on.
- Being forsaken by others.
- Being ridiculed by others.

# Uses of Adversity

- **1. Adversity helps to achieve life's major purpose.**
- It is to be holy, not necessarily happy!
- Aiming for Heaven in life helps also to enjoy the best life on Earth.
- Aiming for earthly things, will cause one to miss both earthly contentment and Heaven.
- Col. 3:1-3

# Uses of Fire/Tribulation

- **2. It increases our reliance on God.**
- When things are going well in life, we begin to think we don't need anybody.
- Matt. 14:30. "Lord save me."
- Man's wisdom will never be enough.
- Life sometimes "Knocks us to our knees, which is where we should be all along."

# Uses of Fire

- **3. It teaches us to submit to God's will.**
- Heb. 5:8.
- Man's rebellious spirit is often the cause of our deepest pains in life.
- Ex. of Boy and Mom.
- A mind that won't submit, will never enjoy God's spiritual blessings or Heaven.

# Uses of Adversity

- **4. Fiery trials help us to readjust life's values.**
- Sometimes we focus on the wrong things.
- We often place others/things before God.
- God must come first in our lives.
- Everything else will be shaken and destroyed.
- Job 16:12. God has Job "By the neck."



# Uses of Adversity

- Eccl. 7:14 “In the day of prosperity be joyful, in the day of adversity consider:”
- Being ill causes us to see how frail our physical bodies are.
- Grief will draw us closer to Heaven.
- Financial loss will cause us trust in God to provide our needs.
- Disappointment in loved ones helps to trust more in God.

# Uses of Fire

- **5. Trials increase our appreciation of life's joys.**
- Eccl. 7:3 "Sorrow is better than laughter, for by sadness the heart is made better."
- Adversity enlarges the spiritual heart, sharpens our spiritual senses, and increases our ability to feel true joy in life.
- Walking through the valleys helps us to really appreciate the mountaintops!!!

# Uses of Fire

- **6. The rain of adversity helps to nourish the fruits of the Spirit.**
- John 15:2.
- A garden full of weeds tells a lot about the owner of the garden!!
- Pruning is necessary to increase growth.
- Can you truly thank God for life's rainy seasons?

# Use of Tribulation

- **7. Trials help to develop humility and patience.**
- II Cor. 12:7 Paul's thorn in the flesh.
- Rom. 5:3 "Tribulation worketh patience.
- Patience must be learned by all.
- "It is not adversity that kills, it is the impatience with which we bear the adversity."

# Uses of Fiery Trials

- **8. Gratitude is grown abundantly in a heart that has known hardship.**
- Being near death really helps you appreciate life!!
- Going hungry and thirsty really helps you to appreciate food.
- Being separated from loved ones helps us to cherish time spent together.

# Uses of Adversity

- **9. Adversity helps us to feel what others may be going through.**
- God comforts us so that we can comfort others.
- Sympathy: “Two hearts pulling one load.”
- Only those hurt in life can skillfully bind up the wounds and hurts of others.

# Uses of Adversity

- **10. They often bring out the best in us.**
- “Wheat must be crushed before bread is made.”
- Flowers must be crushed before releasing its sweetest perfume.
- David wrote his most meaningful Psalms hiding from Saul in a cave.
- Joseph became great as a result of adversity.