



## Living Waters Ministries

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### The Refiner's Fire And His Fuller's Soap

We know by the nature of God, that He cleanses and purifies believers whom remain in Him. When we yield to God, He searches the secret recesses of our heart to remove all the roots of sin and changes us into Christ's image. This change pleases Him as His purpose for us comes to completion. The loving hand of God in our lives is His chastening and refining work as the loving Father of spirits.

**Hebrews 12:9** Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

**Prov. 1:23** Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

Being subject to the correction of God is a matter of being correctable. This is an attitude that always furthers our spiritual progress. Fellowship with the Lord starts with Him becoming our Master.

**Acts 15:8** And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us...

God knows the inner regions of a person's heart therefore when sin is present in the heart it must be dealt with.

**Acts 15:9b** .... purifying their hearts by faith.

It takes faith to receive His purifying in our lives. Many would rather try to cover over their sin, or justify then. Yet the Bible lays it out plain to us, there is not justification unless we have His approval...

**Jn. 3:19-20** And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

**But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.**

Clearly we can see that those who want the approval of the Lord are not afraid to come openly into the Firelight. There are also those who are running away from the fire...seeking a place to hide, knowing their deeds will indeed be exposed...so they are trying to extend their time in continuing on, hoping all a long not caught in His judgment.

When sin is present it takes a contrition of heart (repentance and faith for forgiveness) to receive His grace, the forgiveness of sin and heart cleansing.

**Ps. 51:17** The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

The act of repentance goes beyond just forgiveness and covering our sin, the grace of God is "the power to will and to do" His good pleasure. This is a complete turn around! We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to make a break with sin altogether and as we yield this grace causes us to be transformed.

**1 Thessalonians 5:23** And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If we were already completely sanctified wholly Paul wouldn't have written this verse by the inspiration of God's Holy Spirit. As Christians we are to be wholly. This means to continue to be counted blameless

before God. This is only possible through Christ' on going advocate ministry and the daily confession of our sins. Christ does not set up a system of automatic forgiveness, but calls us to a system of relationship with Him where we remain accountable for our actions. The confession of our sins is the only way to remove them for our lives. He who is faithful and just through this confession will cleanses us from all our iniquities.

**Malachi 3:2** But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire [refining is the method of purification for metals], and like fullers' soap [ fuller – indicates the way of washing which applies stomping and beating the clothes clean/ the soap used was vegetable high alkali soap which can be harsh – be it really cleans]

God has a special place in our lives in refining and cleansing us... purifying our sinfulness. It may seem harsh to someone who doesn't wash themselves everyday cleansing their hearts before God, but that harshness is the act of cleansing sometimes years of sin that has build up in our lives. Some have developed scales. When we present ourselves unto Him, in surrender...and allow His Spirit to work in our lives, His powerful anointing will cleanse us, we will be made clean, and we will be made free.

**Matthew 3:11** I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire

The Scripture has said that the fire purifies and separates the dross out of our lives. By fellowship with the Holy Spirit we examine daily what is displeasing to the Lord and separate it from our lives as we allow the Holy Spirit to confront and purify us. This action of a Holy God requires us to interact with the Holy Spirit and change our nature to one of holiness.

**1Jn. 3:3** And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

**Acts 26:18b** ....which are sanctified by faith that is in me [speaking of the Cross].

Purifying begins when we meet God! The New Testament tells us that the moment we meet God's first the chastening and refining work of the Holy Spirit begins to remove, refine, and purify our lives in becoming pleasing to God. It is normal for the continual and progressive work of sanctification to go on through ones [Christian] life, and it is to be sought each day.

**Exodus 3:2** And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

Flames appear in ones life to purify, cleanse, and set us aside for the work of the ministry. We are not ready for the work of ministry without such a sanctification in our lives.

**Matthew 3:11** I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire...

The Holy Spirit and fire was sent with two goals in mind: 1.) to heat and burn and 2.) to tempered. Tempering medals are made strong by the fires of the blacksmith. God's nature is to forges the precious out of the crude.

Fire is something that separates impurities from our lives. People cannot get close to God without being subject to the removal and purging of all impurities in their lives. We also cannot expect God to complete the work of preparation for the mission or purpose without the forging process.

**Deuteronomy 4:24** For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.

God will not share His affections with other gods. The gods of men's hearts are many. If they are present in the heart of man they will be abased with us, if they are not repented of. People are subject to the same judgment as their idols are unless they depart from them. This is the judgment of God!

**Deuteronomy 9:3 Understand therefore this day, that the LORD thy God is he which goeth over before thee; as a consuming fire he shall destroy them, and he shall bring them down before thy face: so shalt thou drive them out, and destroy them quickly, as the LORD hath said unto thee.**

**Hebrews 12:29 For our God is a consuming fire.**

**Malachi 3:3 And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.**

Jesus, in John 15, told us of the purging work of the Holy Spirit. The purging would include cutting off anything that was not producing fruit in our lives. Dead branched must be trimmed for in our lives which do not produce, but take away for the real producing of what is pleasing to God.

**Titus 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.**

The purpose for purity is to be close to God. God desires family that is close not distant because of sin. In fact it is because of sin in our life that causes a barrier between us and God. That barrier can be removed and closeness restored if we allow God's Spirit and Word to continue to challenge us to live more perfect and upright lives.

**James 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.**

It is double minded people that desire the carnal over the spiritual. James deals with these because their hearts have lead them to work out with their hand the sinful deeds. Carnality is against God and His ways and must be repented of.

**Matthew 3:12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.**

The completeness of the work God does in a persons life will change the way they are to the point that what was chaff will completely be destroyed. God harvests the fruit of His labors in us, for the purpose He has intended. Seasons may be long in coming to the time of harvest but the outcome always is worth the season. Trust God in what He is doing, and let Him have full control.

**Luke 3:17 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.**

God separates much of what He sees in our lives and sets it of fire because He knows how worthless it is and because it is of no eternal value.

**Jn. 15:2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.**

God knows how to bring more fruit into our lives.

**Isaiah 1:25 And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin...**

The hand of God on a person is usually known because God removes what is of no value and takes away all of what is tin, this metal has not qualified for His use or purpose. Look for God to forge perilous metal in your life unto His purpose.

**1Cor. 3:12-15 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.**

We all build in our lives, but what we build is *not always of the precious and eternal*. Much is build from the earthly and the carnal standpoint. While all these materials seem to be fine for building it is only the eternal ones that will endure the Fire of God. All our works shall be tried for what substance they are made of. Think it not strange that many who look as though they have built fine structures - have nothing remaining after the Fire of God touches the life's work. Some are waiting for a future date to try their earthly works, while others are seeking after God now to make the works they do with the eternal and lasting substance of God's will. What would be better you, God trying a person's works by His sanctifying flames now, or at the end of one's life? – Or after they went on to face His judgment seat?

Nevertheless, the plan and purpose of the Holy God is to create lasting eternal works and fruit that will remain... *and to bare out fruitfulness to future generations!* Through the fire of God's Holy presence and glory in our lives we can build precious stones upon this foundation, and present all that we build in our lives as eternal in nature. This must always be our quest.

When a person says that they are on fire for God, or is asking for the fire of God to fall in the congregation, *they often do not fully understand what that means or entails*. It is the act of God's Holy Fire that causes the church to be a shining light in the darkness, a beacon of light to others in a stormy sea. As a church we desperately need the fire of God's presence His glory to come and make us shine. Jesus remarked that John the Baptist was a burning and shining light. May we all be aflame with God's presence!

Why don't you yield yourself to Him and allow His Holy presence to work in your life... He will make you what He wants you to be....

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