

REFINED THROUGH FIRE: Becoming More Like Jesus

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1 Peter 4:19

Many assume that following Christ guarantees a life free from trouble—but Scripture and experience tell a different story. We live in a broken world where suffering is real and unavoidable.

Some suffering is **common to all humanity**—storms, sickness, loss (John 16:33). Other suffering can result from **our own choices** (Galatians 6:7–8). Yet there is a dimension of suffering that is **allowed by God**—not to harm us, but to **form Christ in us**.

Romans 5:3–5 reminds us: *“We glory in sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.”*

Suffering has a divine purpose:

- It **clarifies what truly matters** (2 Corinthians 4:17–18)
- It **draws us into deeper dependence on God** (2 Corinthians 12:9)
- It **refines and strengthens our faith** (1 Peter 1:6–7)

In seasons of pain, God is **not** absent—He is **actively shaping us into the likeness of Christ**.

The call is not just to endure suffering—but to **respond rightly**:

- **Commit yourself to God**
- **Continue to do good**
- **Trust His faithfulness**

When you are in hardship consider the following:

1. **Renew Your Commitment** - Choose daily to trust God’s faithfulness, even when circumstances are unclear. (*Proverbs 3:5–6*)
2. **Refocus Your Perspective** - Ask: *“Lord, what are You forming in me through this?”* instead of *“Why is this happening?”*
3. **Respond with Righteous Action** - Keep doing good—serve, love, forgive—even when it’s hard. (*Galatians 6:9*). As we lift others, God strengthens us
4. **Rely on God’s Strength** - Lean into His grace, not your own ability. (*Isaiah 40:29–31*)

PRAYER: Father, I declare that in the midst of suffering, **You are faithful and You are at work**.

Holy Spirit, breathe strength into me. Where there is weariness, release **fresh fire**. Where there is confusion, release **clarity and revelation**. Where there is pain, release **healing and divine comfort**.

LORD, refine me like gold in the fire. Form in me the **character of Christ**.

My faith will not fail, my hope will not fade, and my calling will not be aborted. I will be **resilient in trial, radiant in holiness, and relentless in love and good works**. Right now, I receive fresh grace to endure, fresh oil to overflow, and fresh fire to arise! In Jesus’ mighty name, Amen.