

July 25, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

Phil. 3:7-11 *But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.* (NIV)

“When we make the choice to walk ‘in Him,’ we must be aware that God does His most intimate work in the midst of the fire.” - Charles Stanley Isa. 23:10 **When He has tested me, I will come forth as gold.** (NIV)

Today, I would like for us to realize seven truths we learn in the furnace of life. These are truths that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego learned as they were cast into the fire. The first truth is: *God desires that we trust Him there.* I’m not sure that any true spiritual growth can really occur apart from pain and difficulties. We can know that wherever we are and whatever we are facing, He is there. The second truth is: *the trial (in this case, the furnace), burns off the outer and reveals the inner.* It is in the trial that our hearts are truly revealed. We see and realize what God already knows. The third truth is: *the Lord is always watching over you.* Feelings can mislead you into thinking that God is not watching, and He must not care what I’m going through. It is here that we must realize that in all things, God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. The fourth truth is: *God is with you in every trial and every victory.* Over and again, He has said that He will never leave you nor forsake you. When He says this, He means it. The fifth truth is: *He is always at work, especially in the furnace.* The very trial we are facing is there because God wants to mature us in that specific area of our lives. The sixth truth is: *Sometimes, our furnaces are self-imposed, and God just uses them as a teaching moment in our lives.* He uses all things to bring Himself the glory that He deserves. The seventh truth is: *Trials are temporary although they may seem permanent.* No matter what the trial is or the length of it, they too will pass and you will come out on the other side, made more in the likeness of the Son. All of these truths allow us to walk in His presence, no matter what the situation or trials may be.

Dear LORD, thank You for my trials because in the midst of them, I’m learning to become more and more like Your Son. In Jesus Name, Amen