

July 26, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

Phil. 3:10-11 *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)

Picking up from yesterday, we looked at seven truths we can learn from the trials. Today let's look at the *reasons* for the furnace and the *results* of the furnace. Reason one is that apart from the furnace, we become self-centered. It is just like us to think that this life is about us. The trials remind us to get our eyes back on what truly is important. We cannot live in the power of His resurrection when we are living like a little child who is always looking for what will please him. The words me and my are used frequently. The second reason is that apart from the furnace, we tend toward self-confidence. We think that we can do things on our own with the help of the Father. **2 Cor. 12:7b** *Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.* (NIV) Paul states that he needed this to keep him grounded instead of conceited. Thirdly, apart from the trials, we tend toward sin. **Ps. 119:67** *Before I was afflicted, I went astray, but now I obey Your word.* (NIV) His word is a reminder, a reset if you will. We tend toward sin until something gets our attention.

Now for the results of the furnace. These five things are not natural for us as people but should be supernatural because of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The first is *brokenness*. **2 Cor. 4:17** *For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us and eternal glory that far outweighs them all.* (NIV) Unless a horse is broken, it is no good to the rider. The second is *humility*. Pride is our greatest enemy in our 'walk with Christ.' In fact, it sets us up against the LORD; **1 Pt. 5:5b** *All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."* (NIV) The third is *compassion*. When we are tested, it reminds us to care about others that are going through the same. Jesus looked upon them with compassion as 'sheep without a shepherd.' The fourth is *purity*. There is a refining process in the fire. It is there that all of the dross is revealed and then can be removed. And lastly, is our *priorities*. In the furnace, we don't look to ourselves but to the only One Who can help us. Things become less important, and He becomes our focus.

Dear LORD, break us from ourselves. Give us humility, compassion, purity and a new priority. We don't need us, but we need You! In Jesus Name, Amen