

Malachi 3:3 says: "He will sit as a Refiner and Purifier of silver."

This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible Study.

That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot then she thought again about the verse that says: "He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver."

She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined. The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed. The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?" He smiled at her and answered, "Oh that's easy - when I see my image in it."

If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has His eye on you and will keep watching you until He sees His image in you. Everyone needs to know and embrace the Truth that God is watching over them, just like the silversmith watches the piece of silver. Whatever we are going through, embracing this Truth assures us that we'll be a surrendered servant of the Lord Jesus Christ in the end.

Living For God: 1 Peter 4:1-3 "So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you must arm yourselves with the same attitude He had, and be ready to suffer, too. For if you are willing to suffer for Christ, you have decided to stop sinning. And you won't spend the rest of your life chasing after evil desires, but you will be anxious to do the will of God. You have had enough in the past of the evil things that godless people enjoy..."

"Only one life it will soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last."

1 Cor. 2:2 "For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified."

The **Amazon River** is the greatest River in the World. More water flows through the Amazon River than the Mississippi and the Nile and the Andes rivers put together. As that fresh water flows from the Amazon River, it flows with such force that there is a current felt as far out as 200 miles all the way out in the South Atlantic Ocean. One time there was a boat sailing past the mouth of that Amazon River and they had run out of water aboard that boat and the sailors were dying of thirst and they signaled to another ship that they saw and they said, "Please can you share some water with us, can you give us some water our sailors are dying?" And they sent back a message across the water and said, "Let down your buckets where you are". And they said, "No, you don't understand, we need water to drink".

They sent back the message again, "Let down your buckets where you are!" And finally the third time they understood. They were sailing in a sea of fresh water and perishing for thirst. And I am afraid that is where some of us are today. Sailing in a sea of fresh water and perishing for thirst. Oh how God loves you! Don't perish. Just let down your buckets where you are! This is what Jesus died for. He has cleansed you and washed you and set you free! The past is past! That is why it is called "past"! You are a new Creature in Christ! Drink deeply of that fresh living water that will never stop flowing over you, around you and through you! Are you dying of thirst? Are you parched because you are believing lies and you don't know your position in Christ? Listen "If the Son has set you free, you are free indeed" John 8:36.

Oh won't you let God transform you by changing the way you thinkembrace the Truth that you are not controlled anymore by the sinful nature or the evil one. Romans tell us that God has broken the power they have over us. Yes they are still there, but they are on God's leash and they can do nothing without God's permission. We belong to Him now! They will only serve His purposes: for example when God is testing us by allowing the watching world see how we respond as victors to a given difficulty.

When God allows us to be tempted, He is testing us. He is training us to see if we will choose to apply what we read in the scriptures by walking in Victory regardless of the opposition. Why? Because we have the power of God! "Greater is Jesus Christ in us than the enemy is in the world" 1 John 4:4 And greater is Jesus in us than our flesh is! Again, the power that the enemy and our flesh had over us has been broken at the cross. Please get this! That is our position!

Now you, through the power of the Holy Spirit have power over them to say no! Capture that thought, submit it to God by pouring out exactly how you feel, like David taught us in the Psalms. Stay filled with His Holy Spirit by pouring out to God any poison that you allowed to enter your mind. This is a "how to" to enable you to walk in Freedom!