

Forge of the Refiner's Fire

1 Peter 1

Foreword

In a previous message we identified God as a blacksmith, using the forge of fiery trial to soften and reshape us for His good use. The blacksmith employs both carefulness and force in his process. He understands the makeup of the metal he works with and is careful with the degree and length of fire he puts it through. He also uses force to bend and pound metal into what he wants it to be.

In this message we see God as a refiner, using fire to remove slag and dross from our lives and purify us. Once pure, we are able to reflect the beauty of God to all those around us.

God's Grace on America Depends on the Purity of His People - 1 Pet. 4:17; 2 Chron. 7:14

- A. God's people must yield to the Refiner's process of purging.
 - 1. God's people must humble themselves.
 - 2. God's people must pray.
 - 3. God's people must seek God's face.
 - 4. God's people must turn from their wicked ways.

- B. God's grace pours forth after His people are pure.
 - 1. God will hear His people's penitent prayers.
 - 2. God will forgive His people's sin.
 - 3. God will heal His people's land.

God Defines Refining as the Trial of Our Faith - 1 Pet. 1:7, 9

God's Defines Purity - 1 Pet. 1:2, 13-25

- 1. Having God's Spirit in you.
- 2. Obeying truth revealed by the Spirit.
- 3. Loving one another with a pure heart.
- 4. Loving one another with effort.
- 5. Living by God's word.

Conclusion

God's refining process in our lives is not just for our own salvation, but for that of our families, our communities, our country, and those around the world.