

1 Peter 1:6-7 (NIV)

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. [7] These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

James 1:2-4 (NIV)

**Consider it pure joy, my brothers,
whenever you face trials of many kinds,
[3] because you know that the testing of
your faith develops perseverance. [4]
Perseverance must finish its work so
that you may be mature and complete,
not lacking anything.**

Hebrews 12:7 (NIV)

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?

Hebrews 12:7,10-11 (NIV)

Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. [11] No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

GOD - FAITHFUL AND UNCHANGING

Malachi 2:17-3:6



False Charges Against God...

- **evil and good are the same to Him**
- **He is pleased with evil**
- **He is Not Just**

Haggai 2:9 (NIV)

'The **glory of this present house** **WILL BE GREATER** than the glory of the former house,' says the Lord Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares the Lord Almighty.'

Luke 2:29-32 (NIV)

"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace.

[30] For **my eyes have seen your salvation,** [31] which you have prepared in the sight of all people, [32] a light for revelation to the Gentiles and **FOR GLORY** to your people Israel."

Isaiah 40:28 (NIV)

Do you not know? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God, the
Creator of the ends of the earth.

He will NOT grow tired or weary,

and his understanding no one can
fathom.

Psalm 78:40-41 (NLT)

Oh, how often they rebelled against him
in the wilderness and **GRIEVED HIS
HEART** in that dry wasteland.

Again and again they

TESTED GOD'S PATIENCE and
PROVOKED the Holy One of Israel.

How do we weary God?

- **by Deliberate Disobedience**
- **by Quenching the Spirit**
- **by Constant Complaining**
- **by saying God does NOT answer Prayer**
- **by Grieving the Spirit**

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God's Discipline - His Refining Fire is...

- **for OUR good**
- **so we can share in His holiness**
- **never pleasant**
- **always painful**
- **ALWAYS produces a Harvest of godliness and peace**

Psalm 89:31-34 (NASU)

If they violate My statutes And do not keep My commandments, [32] Then I will punish their transgression with the rod And their iniquity with stripes. [33]

But I will not break off My lovingkindness from him, Nor deal falsely in My faithfulness.

MY COVENANT I will NOT violate, Nor will I alter the utterance of My lips.

Romans 3:23 (NIV)
...ALL have sinned
and fall short
of the glory of God,

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)

**For it is by GRACE you have
been saved,**

THROUGH FAITH--

and this NOT from yourselves,

it is the GIFT of God--

**NOT by works, so that no one
can boast.**

The REFINERS Fire

- **ALWAYS to Purify us**
- **NEVER to Destroy us**
- **is NEVER painless**

Two ways that the REFINERS fire comes into our Lives

1 - The Fire of Affliction

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Two ways that the REFINERS fire comes into our Lives

2 - The Fire of Intentional Self-Denial

Colossians 3:5 (NIV)

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

Galatians 5:24 (ESV)

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Two ways that the REFINERS fire comes into our Lives

2 - The Fire of Intentional Self-Denial

Romans 6:11-12 (NIV)

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but ALIVE TO GOD in Christ Jesus. [12] Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.