

**This week...**

**Scripture: Zechariah 13:9, Malachi 3, 1 Peter 1:7, Isaiah 48:10, Job 23:10, James 1:2-3, and Proverbs 17:3**

**Monday** Proverbs 17:3 *“The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests the heart.”*

This Proverb describes the process of refining metals, through fire and heat, straining out the impurities. The refiners sat and watched the melting process so that, when they saw their own reflections in the liquid metal, they knew the impurities had been removed. After the metal is melted and purified, it is poured into molds to make expensive jewelry, decorations, or implements. The term refiner is used figuratively in many places in the Scripture. Describe what refiner or refining means in the following passages. Psalm 119:140; Isaiah 48:10; and Zechariah 13:7. (*Borrowed from Jack Hayford*)

**Tuesday** Proverbs 17:3 *“The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests the heart.”*

Refer to yesterday’s task and describe what refiner or refining means in the following passages. Malachi 3:2-3; and 1 Peter 1:22.

**Wednesday** Job 23:8-12 *“But if I go to the east, he is not there; if I go to the west, I do not find him. When he is at work in the north, I do not see him; when he turns to the south, I catch no glimpse of him. But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold. My feet have closely followed his steps; I have kept to his way without turning aside. I have not departed from the commands of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread.”*

These could easily have been the words of Joseph. Imagine yourself languishing in prison and speaking these words. Meditate on the full impact of what Job is saying concerning

fiery trials, his faith, and God. Connect the dots from Job’s life, through that of Joseph and into your own life.

**Thursday** 1 Peter 1:6-7 *“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 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.”*

Time is indeed relative. “*A little while*” might encompass years, but years compared to a lifetime or eternity is nothing. It is very likely that you have or are suffering grief in all kinds of trials. Carefully examine Peter’s instruction to see how a follower of Christ might face the struggle. Note what you learn in order to put this to use in the days ahead.

**Friday** James 1:2-3 *“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.”*

Have you ever dealt with your trials like this? Spend some time in prayer reflecting on those times when you “*fall into divers temptations* (KJV)”, trials, difficulties, or troubles. Give thanks to God for the experiences as you recognize His purpose in refining you as pure gold for His praise, glory, and honor. Ask God to give you insight into those things you are to learn from inside the refiner’s crucible. Be alert to those new difficulties that come your way so that you might come out the other side improved and pure.