

God Is For Me
Lesson 01 of the series, "God Is..."

A. God is for me.

"When I am afraid, I will put my trust in Thee... Thou hast taken account of my wanderings; Put my tears in Thy bottle. ...This I know, that God is for me." Psalm 56:3, 8-9 (NASB77)

"If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?" Romans 8:31-32 (NLT)

B. God is for me so much that He is refining me.

"...the Lord you are seeking will suddenly come to his Temple. The messenger of the covenant, whom you look for so eagerly, is surely coming, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. But who will be able to endure it when he comes? Who will be able to stand and face him when he appears? For he will be like a blazing fire that refines metal, or like a strong soap that bleaches clothes. He will sit like a refiner of silver, burning away the dross. He will purify the Levites, refining them like gold and silver, so that they may once again offer acceptable sacrifices to the LORD." Malachi 3:1-3 (NLT)

Life Application: I can cooperate with God's refining process.

"For the LORD disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child. As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? If God doesn't discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all." Hebrews 12:6-8 (NLT)

a. God will refine me through testing and trials.

"I have refined you, but not as silver is refined. Rather, I have refined you in the furnace of suffering."
Isaiah 48:10 (NLT)

"I will bring that group through the fire and make them pure. I will refine them like silver and purify them like gold. They will call on my name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'These are my people,' and they will say, 'The LORD is our God.'" Zechariah 13:9 (NLT)

"God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs."
Matthew 5:3 (NLT)

Life Application: I can choose to rejoice when troubles come.

"Let the whole world bless our God and loudly sing his praises. Our lives are in his hands, and he keeps our feet from stumbling. You have tested us, O God; you have purified us like silver."
Psalm 66:8-10 (NLT)

"Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing."
James 1:2-4 (NLT)

b. God will refine me through His Word.

"The LORD's promises are pure, like silver refined in a furnace, purified seven times over."
Psalm 12:6 (NLT)

"For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable." Hebrews 4:12-13 (NLT)

Life Application: I can choose to read/study/meditate on the Bible every day and do what it says.

"So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it." James 1:21-25 (NLT)

c. God will refine me through others.

“And some of the wise will fall victim to persecution. In this way, they will be refined and cleansed and made pure until the time of the end, for the appointed time is still to come.” Daniel 11:35 (NLT)

“The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but man is tested by the praise he receives.”

Proverbs 27:21 (NIV)

“Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy.” Proverbs 27:6 (NLT)

Life Application: I can get in a connect group where I can build relationships with people who will sharpen me, help me and hold me accountable.

“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.” Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT)

“Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.” Galatians 6:1 (NLT)

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Quotations to Consider

“And still He seeks the fellowship of His people and will send them both joy and sorrow to detach their hands from the things of this world and attach those hands to Himself.” J.I. Packer

“Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains. It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world.” C.S. Lewis

“God is too good to be unkind and He is too wise to be mistaken. And when we cannot trace His hand, we must trust His heart.” Charles Spurgeon

“These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.” 1 Peter 1:6-7 (NLT)

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

Resources

You Version Bible Reading Plans. www.bible.com/reading-plans

Join a Connect Group: www.centeringlives.com/ministries/connect-groups/

Connect Group Discussion Questions

1. How did you celebrate New Year's Eve? What New Year's resolutions have you made?
2. Where would you like to be spiritually at the end of 2019? How could your connect group help you? (See Hebrews 10:24-25 and Galatians 6:1 for ideas.)
3. Read Proverbs 17:3 and Hebrews 12:6-8. How does it make you feel to know that God is refining you? Why doesn't He just save us and leave us alone?
4. Discuss Proverbs 27:21. Why would receiving praise test us? How would we fail the test?
5. Read James 1:2-4. In your opinion, is it really possible to rejoice during hard times? If so, how?
6. Read Hebrews 4:12-13 and James 1:21-25. Share one insight you gained from Scripture in 2018. What is your Bible reading plan for 2019?
7. Spend a few minutes as a group praying for Centerpoint Fellowship Church to be refined by God in 2019. Ask God to give us listening ears, repentant hearts, and joyful obedience.