

Day 1, The Refiner's Fire (Malachi 3:2–3)

Reflection

The refiner's fire burns but does not destroy. It removes impurities. God's refining work may be uncomfortable, but it is purposeful. He sifts out pride, complacency, and hidden sin so that we may offer righteous worship.

Refinement is not punishment; it is preparation. God allows heat in our lives so that what is false rises to the surface and can be removed. The goal is not harm, but holiness.

Illustration

Silver is heated until impurities rise to the surface. The silversmith knows the work is complete when he can see his reflection in it. Our sanctification on earth is never complete, although God should be able to more and more of Jesus in us as we are being refined.

Application

What might God be burning away in your life so that His image is more clearly reflected in you?

How can you cooperate with His refining work instead of resisting it?