

STAY THE COURSE & LET GOD REFINE US INTO CHRIST'S IMAGE

I want to share a message that is borne out of the Holy Spirit dealing with me, and assuring me that Christ still has a unique plan and purpose for my life; he still does. I'm sure you've heard – countless times – that “God has a unique plan for your life” too. At one time I did not think that such a statement was quite as profound for me as when I first accepted Christ, and in my early Christian years. But that's really not quite the truth. When I've allow the Holy Spirit to be my companion and my guide, my life stays on the straight and narrow because I'm lock-step in His will. The Holy Spirit contends with, wars with, and deals with, this fleshly nature of mine that tends to want to stray off course if I take my eyes off Him. Christ, most assuredly has a unique plan for each of our lives.

So, what's the solution to staying the course (i.e., persevering)? The answer can be found in Malachi 3:3 (NIV), which reads: “He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver.” Oh gee thanks David, that helps a lot! Bear with me as revelation of the scripture will enlighten us both to the very character and nature of our God, and also our part in the process.

A woman called a silversmith to make an appointment to watch him work. She was interested in the process of refining silver. As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest so it can burn away all the impurities. The woman thought about the scripture: “He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver.” She asked the silversmith if he had to sit in front of the fire the entire time. The man answered, “Yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.” The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked, “How do you know when the silver is fully refined?” He smiled at her and answered, “Oh, that's easy – when I see my image in it.”

What a profound revelation for you and I! If today, you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has His eye on you and will keep watching you until He sees Christ's image in you. I encourage you to stay on His course, don't lose hope, and accept the refinement and purification from our Master as He completes His good work in you.

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