

From the rising of the sun
to its setting,
the name of the Lord
is to be praised!

Psalm 113:3



A Newsletter from On Wings Like A Dove Ministry August 2024 Vol. 20 Issue 8

As Silver Refined

“For Thou hast tried us, O God; Thou hast refined us as silver is refined”
Psalm 66:10

Many of you know how much the Word of God guides our steps at On Wings as we seek His face. This year I am reading the Bible through and enjoying every minute of it. Today I am in Psalm and just read Chapter 66. These verses captured my attention:

“Let everyone bless God and sing His praises; for He holds our lives in His hands, and He holds our feet to the path. You have purified us with fire, O Lord, like silver in a crucible. You captured us in your net and laid great burdens on our backs. You sent troops to ride across our broken bodies. We went through fire and flood. But in the end, you brought us into wealth and great abundance” Psalm 66:8-9.

The psalmist sees these afflictions as coming from God’s hand. The past couple of years have found us in that crucible it seems. It is hard to endure lasting affliction while holding on to hope that things will get better, right? It can make you physically and mentally weary to the degree that you have thoughts of giving up. If we keep moving forward in God’s calling for us, we can often get to the point where we see that it was all for our good but getting there is difficult to say the least.

God tells us in His word that we are not to be surprised by the afflictions that come our way to test us as though it is something foreign. God never tempts us, but He does test us just like He did to so many characters in the Bible. I pray He has found us faithful as we have proceeded day by day to fulfill His call to us. Sometimes our affliction will cause us to ask ourselves if we can endure to the end and the answer is that it is only with God’s help and strength that we can.

God’s whole goal is to refine us and bring the dross to the surface to be skimmed off which allows us more and more to become like Christ and prepare us to be a good soldier for the Lord Jesus Christ. We can resist it and remain the same or we can take heed and admit we have some things that need to be refined. He brings deals with all those things He wants to purge from us so that we will come forth stronger in Him, having learned some very valuable lessons. We often think we can’t make it through the season of fire but with Him we can do all things.

I love His promise at the end of the passage: “But in the end You brought us into wealth and great abundance”. We are certainly looking forward to that season. I pray we have learned the lessons we needed to learn and that He has cleared the stage for His good purposes. We think in the process that we won’t survive or that He has turned His back on us, but He never does.

Praise God He promises to bring His people “through the fire,” and to “refine them as silver is refined and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are My people,’ and they will say, ‘The LORD is my God’” (Zechariah 13:9). We can choose to resist His refining process but if we insist on hanging on to our impurities, then God will set us aside. I don’t know about you, but I never want God to set me aside due to my own stubbornness by rejecting his refining process.



~ Sandra

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Tuesday-Thursday
10 am-2 pm
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Prayer Support Groups

No Prayer Support
Meeting for August

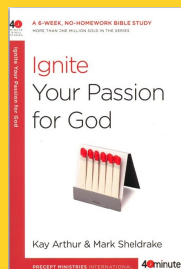
Ladies Bible Study

Each Tuesday
At On Wings Office
From 12:30-2:00

We are beginning
a new study

“Ignite Your Passion for God”
By Kay Arthur
And Mark Shel Drake

Come Join Us!





Prayer Thoughts

Our Father Comes Alongside

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.
Galatians 5:25, NKJV

The Greek word for “comforter” is *parakletos*, which literally means one called alongside to help. This was beautifully illustrated in the 1992 Summer Olympics during a track-and-field event. As the runners in the 400-meter race flew around the oval track, one of them suddenly pulled up on the back stretch, one leg held up and dangling as he limped to a stop. He had pulled a hamstring! As the crowd stood, holding its collective breath, a man ran out of the stands to the young athlete. It was his father! As the television crew relayed the moving scene to the watching world, the microphones picked up the runner’s words: “Dad, you’ve got to help me across the finish line. I’ve trained all my life for this race.” And so the father put his arm around his son, and together, they limped across the finish line to a standing ovation!

In the race of life, God our heavenly Father has come alongside us through the Person of the Holy Spirit. And when we think we can’t go one more step He puts His everlasting arms around us, and gently walks with us to the finish.

Taken From Joy of My Heart, Anne Graham Lotz
October 16, 2022

The Expert Witness... You!

How do you witness? It’s much simpler than you think. Witnessing comes down to simply bearing witness. It doesn’t mean you have to be impressive or eloquent, you just bear witness. Imagine you’re on a jury and a guy comes in as a witness in a case and he looks slick, polished, well-rehearsed, every line’s the right line, every word and mannerism is professional. Would you find him very trustworthy? Probably not. You don’t believe a witness who’s skilled, you believe a witness who’s sincere and who’s real. A witness isn’t called to be skilled, smooth, or professional; a witness is called simply to bear witness to what he or she knows. That’s it. So how do you witness? You just bear witness to what you know, not to what you don’t know. Just be real, be sincere, and just share what you know. Do you know the Messiah? Share Him! You know He came into your life, you know He’s great, and you know your life has changed. Share it! That’s all there is to it. Just share what you know and you’ll end up being an expert witness.

Taken From Today’s Sapphires Message #546
Scripture: Proverbs 14:25



The Bible
IS THE ONLY BOOK
WHOSE AUTHOR IS
ALWAYS PRESENT
WHEN ONE READS IT



AROMAS

Kathy's Korner



Ah, the beach. A time of calmness, beauty and enjoying God's creation. Peace for the body, mind and spirit. We returned home from a few days at the beach rested and relaxed. As we settled back in the routine of home life, bags were unpacked, dinner prepared and shortly before bed we let the tired pup out into the dark yard for one last potty break...

The air of peace, rest and relaxation was quickly shattered with a scurry of feet, yelping and a distressed dog running back onto the porch with the tell-tale scent of who the intruder was.

After multiple baths for her and us, we finally fell into bed; exhausted and not at all peaceful. The scent of her skunk encounter remained and the work remaining to be done, daunting.

As I lay in bed awaiting sleep, I contemplated how quickly my state of "shalom" had been transformed by an outside influence, much the same as when sin creeps in and starts taking over in my life, bringing discord and shame with it. The Bible speaks to staying alert; being watchful because the adversary roams around seeking to destroy and devour. (1 Peter 5:8)

Much like implementing a new evening routine to reduce the likelihood of unwanted animal encounters, I must have routines to reduce the likelihood of sin creeping in through my thoughts and actions. Peter goes on in his letter to exhort us to "Resist him!" and remain steadfast in the faith. Let what I meditate on, my thoughts, my words and actions be a pleasing aroma to the Lord.

One source I looked at recommended placing bowls of vinegar around the house to absorb odors. In Scripture vinegar can represent hardships and adversities of life. Both vinegar and adversity can have cleansing effects, absorbing and removing impurities of the home, and the soul. Another source stated that vinegar, baking soda and dish detergent can help, but the best results came from exposing the offending aroma to sunlight. What a fitting analogy. The best solution for the sins that so easily entangle me...expose them to the Son! Let the Holy Spirit do some cleansing in the dark and foul areas of my heart.

It's been a couple of days since that dreadful night. The house has mostly returned to normal. The aroma has not been eradicated but is diminished. My time sitting in the sun with the Son has restored "shalom" with gratitude for the everyday happenings that God uses to reveal Himself and His ways. I've had a couple days of diligently cleaning the house, the rugs and floors, towels, shower curtains - and of diligently seeking the Lord to reveal anything not producing a sweet aroma to Him. I'm thankful the dog, the home and I are cleansed, restored and renewed!

After you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you" (1 Peter 5:10).



Book Review #8

As Silver Refined

by Kay Arthur

*“The crucible is for silver and the furnace for gold,
and a man is tested by the praise accorded him”
Proverbs 27:21*

As a follower of Christ, we learn that we have many impurities that need the Refiner's fire to bring them to the surface so they can be skimmed off much like the silversmith does when he places bits of ore into the crucible. He then places the crucible in the fire and sits down beside it. Isn't it comforting to know that our Refiner, the Lord Jesus Christ, sits right down beside us when we feel like we are in the fire personally and that He knows just how the temperature needs to be set in order to bring all our impurities to the surface.

The silversmith waits and watches for the impurities to rise and at times increases the heat to bring new impurities to the surface. Our Refiner does that same thing as the trials and afflictions come our way all designed to transform us into His treasures to be used for His purposes.

We will all experience different fires in our lives. In the pressure of the heat, we will see the impurities in our life being released and rising to the top. Then God will skim them off, purifying us, and refining us with the goal of becoming like Christ. Kay shares part of a poem in her book as follows:

The Refiners Fire

“Can we think it pleases His loving heart
To cause us a moment's pain?
Ah, no, but He sees through the present cross
The bliss of eternal gain.
So, He waited there with a watchful eye
With a love that is strong and sure,
And His gold did not suffer a bit more heat
Than was needed to make it pure”.

God has His own unique set of circumstances for each of us, which He will use to refine and purify us, bringing us through the fire of affliction so that the dross of our ungodliness is consumed. Allow Him to turn the heat up as He sees fit which will prepare you for His service. You can find strength in the afflictions that come your way if you will just submit yourself to His will.



~ Sandra