

## **Refined by Fire**

### **Ready:**

“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.”

-1 Peter 1:6-7

### **Set**

When I was a youngster, I used to play basketball with my older brother and his buddies. They were high school seniors when I was in fifth grade. Many times I was simply the kid that evened up the teams—an extra body.

Because I played with older guys, the trials I went through on the court were tough, and I often got discouraged. Eventually, however, I was able to handle the ball well enough to hold my own, and I developed enough game that, when I was left open, I could knock a shot down. When I went to play “bitty ball” at school against guys my own age, the game seemed much easier and I enjoyed success. Looking back, I realize that the experiences with the older players helped improve my basketball skills.

Sometimes this analogy parallels my spiritual walk. Romans 8:28 tells us that “all things work together for good to those who love the Lord and are called according to his purpose.” Ever since Adam took a bite of the apple, men and women have endured trials. Romans 8:29 tells us that God allows these things so we can become more like Him. As a result, the book of James also tells us we should consider it great joy when we go through trials because God will reveal His character, love and authority to us.

While I’d rather not go through trials, I do need to understand that God is allowing things to happen to help me grow and mature in Him. For this I should be thankful, and, when we look at these things in a positive light, they do not seem as daunting or frustrating.

### **Go**

- 1.How did you respond to your last trial?
- 2.Did you include Christ while enduring?
- 3.How much time did you spend in the Word or prayer during your trial?

### **Workout**

Deuteronomy 7:9

Romans 8: 28-29

James 1:1-12

**Bible Reference:**

1 Peter 1



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