

"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:" 1 Peter 1:7 KJV



When something opposes them, men usually don't try to mask their evil. Adversity brings out the impurities of character. We often hide our true feelings, but hardly consider the fact that God sees our heart. His "fiery trials" bring our faith's dross to the surface. Gold will stand intense heat without changing, but its impurities separate and float to the surface. Remelting gold refines away its impurities. Gold's real value is best demonstrated when it holds beautiful gems. Men do not make jewelry from clay. The gold of faith holds the gems of obedience for all to admire! Christ instructed the Laodicean Church, "Buy gold of me tried in the fire." Buy Gold of God? Really? How? You buy value with equal value. Faith is the currency of Heaven! The trials of life refine our faith into the pure gold of Heaven's currency that we may with faith, procure faith. "Faith cometh by...the Word of God...and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God." As in the Parable of the Talents, our gold is not our own. We are expected by the Master to multiply that which He gives us. If our faith yields up its dross, in the fire of the Refiner's testing, we will "come forth as gold." No scourging is ever pleasant and no test is ever sought, but God puts every child to the test. "For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth EVERY son (child) whom He receiveth." If you are not tested then God's Word says, "If ye be without chastisement, whereof ALL are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons." If you can sin freely without remorse or reaping, then be afraid, very afraid, for you aren't and never were God's Child! Testing in your life verifies that you are the KING'S beloved child! Divine testing is at best uncomfortable and at worst painful! Sometimes our hearts break as we watch a loved one under the hand of God. Sometimes we even break under the pressure, but rest assured, the Lord knows what He is doing! "A bruised reed shall He not break, and smoking flax shall He not quench, till He send forth Judgment unto victory. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." Faith is the escape given by God's Word; trusting God in everything!

Faith, mighty Faith! The promises; that look to God alone!
Laughs at impossibilities and shouts, "It shall be done!" ~Author unknown

I'm quite certain David Livingston, Hudson Taylor, and David Brainerd had their doubts at times, but their lives serve as inspiration to us all. I'm sure Elizabeth Elliot questioned the hand of God when her husband, Jim, was speared to death at the hands of murdering natives in the Ecuadorian jungle, but his death inspired hundreds to carry the Gospel to the South American rain forests. My Dad was one of those men. Jim had written in his journal, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." Never doubt in the dark what God has shown you in the light. The man that killed Jim Elliot later came to know Christ through Elizabeth Elliot's continued ministry. Mountain top views are never seen from the valley, but they are there, just the same. When you find yourself in a valley, look up and away to towering peaks of Promise that surround you and remember the "God which cannot lie" who promised, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my Throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His Throne." Revelation 3:21 KJV