

### Fired, stressed and glazed.

It's interesting, we all want to be Godly, or holy and we understand the process of that is being prepared by God, having experiences and opportunities to develop yet we don't want this type of development process.

Alongside this is that we admire people who have done it tough and come out the other side with great stories and really wise and we want to be like them but without the pain.

In some ways, God creates an equilibrium of experience, knowledge, opportunity and tension to produce people with the skills He needs to do certain jobs.

### How is God going to refine us?

Look at this

#### **Zechariah 13:9 (NIV2011)**

<sup>9</sup> This third I will put into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. 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 our God.' "

This process seems a tad uncomfortable – refine us like silver and gold – hang on that is done by putting the silver and gold into a fire and getting rid of the excess bits. That sounds ... we'll hot. Uncomfortable even.

Yep, look at this one,

#### **Revelation 3:18 (NIV2011)**

<sup>18</sup> I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

God's Gold = right refinement

Again look at this.

#### **Malachi 3:2-3 (NIV2011)**

<sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap.

<sup>3</sup> He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness,

We've talked about pots over the last few weeks. Let's listen again to Marjo as she talks about the purpose of firing a pot.

(Video 2:48-4:55 the purpose of firing, and glazing)

The pot when its fired is made – useful.

## Noble purpose

<sup>21</sup> Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use?

So the pot, or the silver and gold become useful. They have purpose. Some used for noble purposes, others for practical use. Sounds like us and the church. Yep. Some people do one thing, some people do others. God makes one person to do one job and others a different one.

But there is another side to firing. The glazing bit.  
Or in the silver and gold process – making it into the precious object.

## Precious –

### Lamentations 4:2 (NIV2011)

<sup>2</sup> How the precious children of Zion, once worth their weight in gold, are now considered as pots of clay, the work of a potter's hands!

Again this concept is better expounded by someone who really knows about it.  
Video 4:55- 6:07)

How precious a commodity we are. We don't even recognize that. We are so precious that Jesus died for us. Wo. Now we say that and nod our heads but stop and think. Jesus died for me. Dwell on it, meditate on that thought. Jesus cares for us so much He died for me – I am worth His life.

Note: refining and purification is not persecution all the time. It is the process of learning to be God's.

What is our reaction?

Our reaction gives us an equilibrium for life. A way to keep the balance and movement of life in the right tension and allows us to spin to God's tune.

Get this:

### 2 Corinthians 7:1 (NIV2011)

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

Notice that while God does the purifying, we are to participate. Get rid of bad bits, put ourselves in positions to let God work, allow Him to have His hand on us, allow Him to spin our spinning top, allow the purification process to happen.

Where are you at?

Out take. 6:07 fin

