

Our theme verse today from our online discussion is:

1 Peter 1:7, The Message "Pure gold put in the fire comes out of it proved pure; genuine faith put through this suffering comes out proved genuine. When Jesus wraps this all up, it's your faith, not your gold, that God will have on display as evidence of his victory"

Kenneth Wuest, a Greek New Testament scholar explains the illustration used here this way:

"The picture here is of an ancient goldsmith who puts his crude gold ore in a crucible, subjects it to intense heat, and thus liquefies the mass. The impurities rise to the surface and are skimmed off. When the metalworker is able to see the reflection of his face clearly mirrored in the surface of the liquid, he takes it off the fire, for he knows that the contents are pure gold. So it is with God and His child. He puts us in the crucible of Christian suffering, in which process sin is gradually put out of our lives, our faith is purified from the slag of unbelief that somehow mingles with it so often, and the result is the reflection of the face of Jesus Christ in the character of the Christian. This, above all, God the Father desires to see. Christlikeness is God's ideal for His child."

Isn't that an amazing illustration, the refining is complete when the goldsmith could see his face clearly mirrored in the surface of the liquid. Such a powerful thought of what God is looking for in us with our faith. When we reflect the face of God through our actions of faith, heart of faith and life of faith we become a symbol of His victory.

Here is our weekly trip to the etymology dictionary, c.1300, "full of faith," also "firm in allegiance," meaning "true to the facts" is from 1520s.

Faithful=True to the facts. Think this through with me: As we are faithful in our walk with God, we reflect Him with pure faith; we remain true to the facts about Him.

Read the scriptures below and make a list of true facts about God:

True Facts About God
Exodus 34:5-7 NIV
Psalms 84:11-12 NIV
1 Corinthians 10:13 NIV
1 John 1:5 NIV

Knowing these things to be true about God, how do they change your daily living? When life gets lived out and difficulties come, how does knowing these things about God change your perspective in the moment of challenge?

If we can trust God in the difficult places, lean into what He is teaching us, the refining serves an amazing purpose. Can you make a note below of a time when you were challenged, and God put a deposit of faith in you through the journey?

To really see how faith is lived out we need to remember that faith is not just words, but it is action. Faith is believing, choosing and moving toward the truths we know about God. We declare what we know to be true about Him by how we walk in faith. I am praying today that you will have many opportunities to choose faith, walk in faith and demonstrate faith in the middle of routine, ordinary moments. Remember that you will be declared to have "pure faith" when you reflect the face of God. Looking forward to hearing from you on the journey!