

5: THE FIRE DOESN'T HAVE THE FINAL WORD

By John
In Faith, Mindset, Resilience

6 Min Read



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Faith in the Fire Series: When God doesn't fix it.

OPENING THOUGHT

There are times in life when it feels like you've been thrown into the fire and left there. God's voice seems silent. His presence feels distant. The solutions appear to be few. The days blur together, the nights feel longer, and prayer feels like shouting into an empty sky. Let the pity party begin. Maybe you've been there—watching dreams fall apart, relationships disintegrate, health decline, or finances crumble. The fire burns hot, and you wonder, *"Will this ever end? Does God see me here?"* "Why me?" "Why now?" We mustn't lose faith when trying times visit.

God's testing is not punishment. It's refining our character, strengthening our faith.

Too often, pain is oversimplified. The advice is frequently reduced to "God has a plan," "Just trust Him," or "He knows best," which can feel dismissive to someone in pain. Why isn't there an honest acknowledgment that pain hurts, the trial is confusing, and the trying period lasts longer than we feel we can stand? God's sovereignty doesn't remove the pain, erase the consequences, or lift the grief we feel. People need time to process the disappointment without being told to "move on" or "it will pass."

Daniel's friends were met *in* the fire. He was by their side in the midst of the flames. Victory is not always about escaping the suffering; sometimes it's about experiencing His closeness in the middle of it.

Many Christians feel uncomfortable admitting that their prayers seem unanswered. God's silence is part of faith-building. Silence doesn't mean absence; it often means God's plan is unfolding behind the scenes.

What about eternity? What if God plans for the disappointment, pain, hurt, or loss to last our lifetime? In this current culture, we expect solutions to be fast. Can we discount how our situation might fit into His eternal plan?

We often imply that trials and testing are transactional in nature. Once "we learn our lesson," the trial will end, and the pain will subside. This thinking cheapens God's grace. God's refining fire is transformational, not transactional, and it is not punishment for a prescribed period.

The fire is temporary, but the work God is doing in you will last forever.

SCRIPTURE

"so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

—1 Peter 1:7 (ESV)

Peter wrote to believers who were under crushing persecution, reminding them their suffering wasn't meaningless. The fire they were walking through was refining their faith, just like gold is purified in the heat of a furnace. Trials weren't breaking them; they were shaping them.

And here's the hope: the fire has an expiration date. One day, every believer will stand face-to-face with Jesus, and every scar will tell a story of His faithfulness. Not a single tear or trial will be wasted—it will all become praise that lasts forever.

APPLICATION

Stop trying to extinguish the fire, or act like it's not there, or everything is fine—face it with faith.

Be open about what you're going through. Let another brother into your life. We're not made to go through trials alone. The Devil loves isolation. God's not asking us to fake it. Or to be manly. The Psalms are filled with honest prayers that begin in pain but ultimately lead to trust. David cried out to God; he didn't pretend he had it all together. God knows what you're going through; lean on Him. He cares.

Stop looking for quick solutions and focus on His presence. Too often, we approach prayer as a way to get answers instead of seeking God Himself. Ask yourself, "What is it that God is trying to teach me?" "How does He want me to respond?" Let His promises be your anchor, not what the world declares we do.

Start with a simple act of obedience—praying when you don't feel like it, encouraging someone else, or serving in a small way—declares your trust in God's plan. Faith grows when it's exercised, and small steps in the fire prepare you for bigger steps of faith ahead.

Remember: the fire is temporary, but what God is building in you through it will last forever.

TODAY'S CHALLENGE: THE FIRE IS NOT FOREVER

Write this phrase somewhere visible—on a sticky note, in your journal, or on your phone wallpaper:

"The fire is not forever. God is not finished. My faith is still standing."

Whenever you feel overwhelmed, speak those words out loud as a reminder of the hope that anchors your soul.

Then pray this:

"Father, thank You that my trials are temporary but Your promises are eternal. Help me to see that even in the fire, You are with me, refining me, and shaping me for eternity. Strengthen my faith when I feel weak, and remind me that my story is not over. I choose to trust You even when I don't understand the why. Use this fire for Your glory and teach me to stand firm in faith until I see You face-to-face. Amen."

FINAL THOUGHT

Fire feels final when you're in it. It feels like the only thing that defines you is the pain you're walking through right now. But Scripture pulls back the curtain on eternity and reminds us that every flame has an expiration date. The trials you face are not the end of your story; they are part of God's craftsmanship, shaping you into someone who reflects His glory.

One day, every scar will tell a story of His faithfulness. The tears you've cried will be wiped away by the same hands that held you in your darkest moments. And you'll see that the fire that felt like it would consume you only refined you. The enemy doesn't get to write the last chapter of your life. Fear doesn't get the final say. The fire doesn't have the last word—Jesus does. And when you finally stand face-to-face with Him, your faith, tested and proven genuine, will shine brighter than you can imagine.

This week's step: Every day this week, spend five minutes thanking God for His presence, not just His provision. Write down one way He has been faithful in a past season of pain. Then, choose a current challenge and declare, "This fire does not have the final word. God is still writing my story." Watch how this practice shifts your focus from the intensity of your fire to the certainty of His promises.

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