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TEMPERED STEEL

When you speak of faith what comes to your mind? Someone that has a “healing ministry”? Maybe a little woman that prays and mountains are moved. Perhaps it is a little child that prays and God answers in a way that is beyond explanation.

Whatever your definition is, the Word of God says that without faith it is impossible to please God. (Hebrews 11:6a) In I Peter 1:6-7 it says, ***“Who are kept (protected or guarded) by the power of God through (your) faith until salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: (trials) 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 honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.”***

Our faith is put to the test my friends. It is like steel. For steel to be strong it has to be put into the fire over and over, then pounded (tempered) it to make it strong and usable. Tempering changes the steel from being hard to being tough and not brittle. Without the fire and the tempering, it would break. Think of a sword used in battle. If it wasn't tempered in the fire, it would break the first time it was used in a sword fight. Likewise, God tempers us through fiery trials that make us stronger and stronger.

Not much is taught about the trials we go through. Most of the time when they come people rebuke them and command them to leave, not knowing that making it through the trial makes us stronger. No one likes trials, me included, but they are absolutely necessary to perfect and temper us. Without the fire, we remain weak, hard, immature, and unable to get the victory in our lives. The fires make us tough!

We must yield to the fire, knowing that your faith is being developed. It may be a small fire like someone taking your parking place. It may be a bigger fire when someone else is promoted and you are the most qualified. How we react shows the strength of our “tempered steel.” Don't be the one that breaks because you didn't permit the fire to temper you. We want our lives to be found worthy of praise by Jesus when he returns.