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THE CRUCIBLE

I have always enjoyed movies about gladiators and soldiers that fought on horseback with swords and shields, and lances. Of course, I like to see the “good guy” win. One thing that is intriguing is the way they use their swords. A sword is no light object, and when wielded it can “slice and dice” whatever it encounters.

These swords are made by a smelter or blacksmith. This person shapes and hammers the steel making it into a sword and puts it into the crucible, or large pot of fire to where it becomes “tempered” so the steel becomes stronger. Without this tempering the sword would break the first time that it encountered something stronger.

The heat must be so hot that it almost melts the metal, but the process refines that steel, and it becomes the weapon that it was intended to be.

In our walk as Christians, we grow and are “tempered” by the fiery trials that we go through. Literally, the heat is on us, and we become stronger through being in the crucible of life. It is not a pleasant thing, but absolutely necessary to become the weapon in God’s hands to defeat our enemies.

Many are wondering what in the world is going on in their lives. We spoke earlier this month about the “crushing” to bring forth oil, but there is also the fire that purifies. As the steel is heated up, impurities are destroyed. Likewise, in our lives when we submit to the crucible, those things that need to go in our lives are burned away.

The crucible is not a bad thing for us my friends. It toughens us and refines us and makes us “sharper” in God’s hands. Resist it and you will break but yield to it and you will become stronger.