

Suffering Before The Glory

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Galatians 5:16-17 (AMP)

[16] But I say, walk and live
[habitually] in the [Holy] Spirit
[responsive to and controlled and
guided by the Spirit]; then you will
certainly not gratify the cravings
and desires of the flesh (of human
nature without God).

Galatians 5:16-17 (AMP)

[17] For the desires of the flesh are opposed to the [Holy] Spirit, and the [desires of the] Spirit are opposed to the flesh (godless human nature); for these are antagonistic to each other [continually withstanding and in conflict with each other], so that you are not free but are prevented from doing what you desire to do.

Galatians 5:19 (AMP)

[19] Now the doings (practices) of the flesh are clear (obvious): they are:

Galatians 5:22 (AMP)

[22] But the fruit of the [Holy] Spirit [the work which His presence within accomplishes] is:

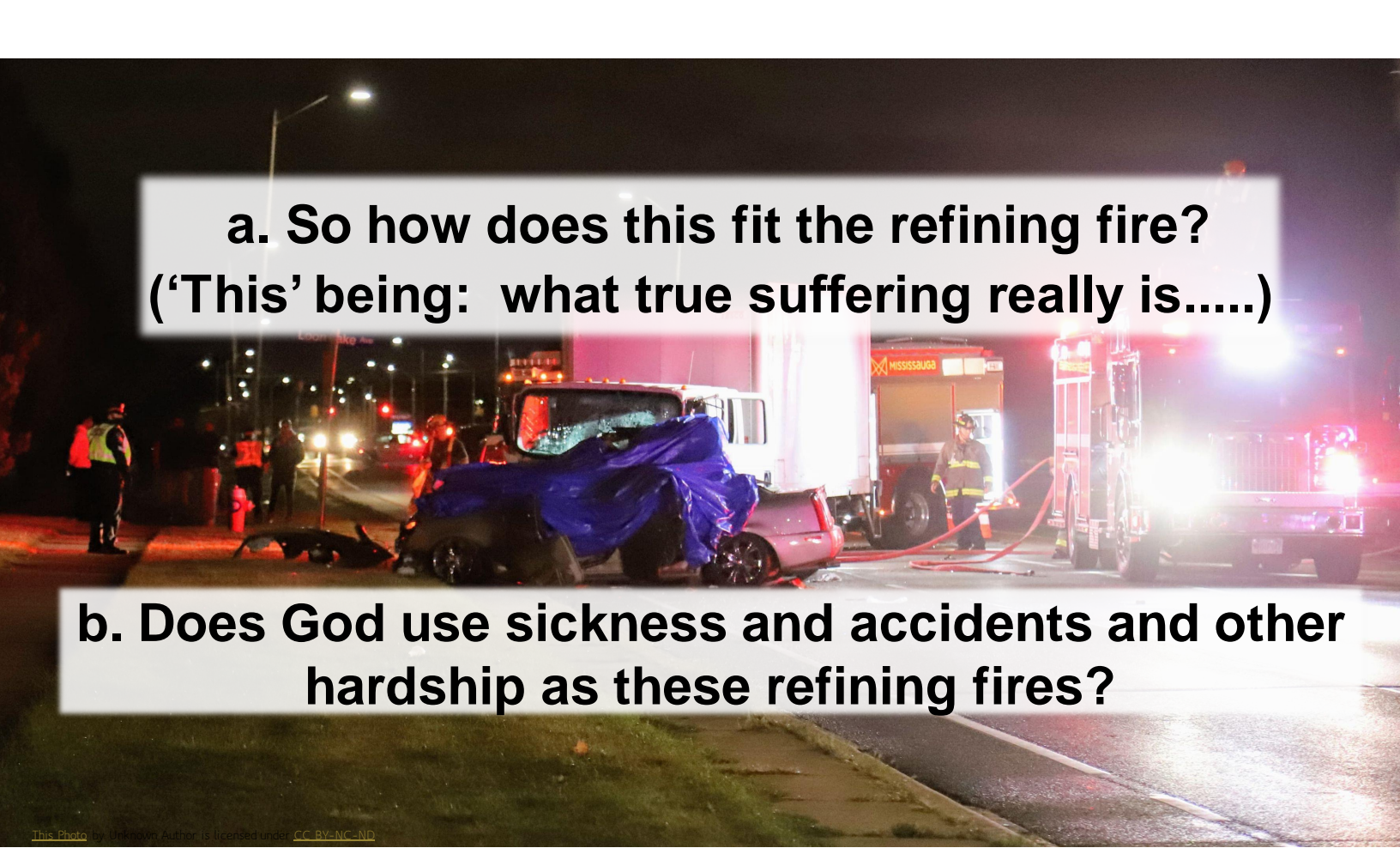
Galatians 5:24-25 (AMP)

[24] And those who belong to Christ Jesus (the Messiah) have crucified the flesh (the godless human nature) with its passions and appetites and desires.

[25] If we live by the [Holy] Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. [If by the Holy Spirit we have our life in God, let us go forward walking in line, our conduct controlled by the Spirit.]

We will not live in the Presence and Power of the Holy Spirit and live by our human nature at the same time.

- 1. To have the constant Presence and Power manifesting in our lives (Glory)
- we need to crucify the flesh.**
- 2. That brings Suffering into our lives.**



**a. So how does this fit the refining fire?
(‘This’ being: what true suffering really is.....)**

b. Does God use sickness and accidents and other hardship as these refining fires?

**1 Peter 1:3-11
(NIV)**

[3] Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, [4] and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, [5] who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:3-11 (NIV)

[6] In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. [7] These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

1 Peter 1:3-11 (NIV)

[8] Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, [9] for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

[10] Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, [11] trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.

1 Peter 4:1-5 (NIV)

[1] Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. [2] As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. [3] For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. [4] They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you. [5] But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

1 Peter 4:12-5:1 (NIV)

[12] Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. [13] But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. [14] If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. [15] If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler.

1 Peter 4:12-5:1 (NIV)

[16] However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. [17] For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? [18] And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

[19] So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

1 Peter 4:12-5:1 (NIV)

[1] To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed:

The IVP Bible Background
Commentary;
New Testament, Second
Edition.

1 Peter
Introduction

Situation.

A fire devastated Rome in A.D. 64 but suspiciously left unscathed the estates of Nero and his older boyfriend Tigellinus. Like any good politician, Nero needed a scapegoat for his ills, and what appeared to be a new religion, understood as a fanatical form of Judaism begun by an executed teacher three and a half decades before, filled the need perfectly.

Situation.

Romans viewed Christians, like Jews, as antisocial. Certain charges became so common that they were stereotypical by the second century: Romans viewed Christians as "atheists" (like some philosophers, for rejecting the gods), "cannibals" (for claiming to eat Jesus' "body" and drink his "blood") and incestuous (for statements like "I love you, brother," or "I love you, sister").

Situation.

Judaism was a poor target for outright persecution, because its adherents were numerous and it was popular in some circles; further, Nero's mistress, Poppaea Sabina, was a patron of Jewish causes. By contrast, Christianity was viewed as a form of Judaism whose support was tenuous even in Jewish circles, and therefore it offered an appropriate political scapegoat.

Situation.

According to the early-second-century historian Tacitus (Annals 15.44), who disliked Christians himself, Nero burned Christians alive as torches to light his gardens at night. He killed other Christians in equally severe ways (e.g., feeding them to wild animals for public entertainment).

Situation.

In all, he may have murdered thousands of Rome's Christians, although most Christians there escaped his grasp. Thus, even though the Greek part of the empire loved Nero, Christians saw him as a prototype of the antichrist. Nero died in disgrace several years later, pursued by fellow Romans who hated him.

The Question:

- a. So how does this fit the refining fire?
(‘This’ being: what true suffering really is.....)

- b. Does God use sickness and accidents and other hardship as these refining fires?

Hebrews 12:6-8 (NIV)

[6] because the Lord disciplines those he loves.....

[7] Endure [hardship as] discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? [8] If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.

From “God’s Loving Discipline” Series
(Message #12):
Affects 3 areas: They Results of being
a Mamzer / Illegitimate Son.

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(1) Cannot marry someone who is an Israelite.

(2) The children of an illegitimate person also cannot marry into the congregation of Israel for 10 generations.

(3) They could not hold public office as an elder, judge, magistrate, priest, or other official in Israel.

Affects 3 areas: They Results of being a Mamzer / Illegitimate Son.

1) Cannot marry someone who is an Israelite.

- **In NT > only marriage in the Kingdom, is our marriage to Jesus.**
- **(Ephesians 5:22-33; Rev. 19:7-9)**

Affects 3 areas: They Results of being a Mamzer / Illegitimate Son.

(2) The children of an illegitimate person also cannot marry into the congregation of Israel for 10 generations.

> Because of the way the New Covenant is setup, I'm not sure that point applies to us in the New Testament.

Affects 3 areas: They Results of being a Mamzer / Illegitimate Son.

(3) They could not hold public office as an elder, judge, magistrate, priest, or other official in Israel.

(Dake's Annotated Reference Bible)

> In the NT - The only ruling and reigning we are told to be involved in has to do with establishing the Kingdom of God on earth. It's dealing with spiritual / supernatural activity.

What is the word picture:

God is not empowering them to rule and reign in their life, because they refused his discipline.

They are living in the realm of Illegitimacy.

- They are living outside the power of legitimate sonship.

> The promises/supernatural doesn't work for them.

Notice:

> What is the discipline / punishment.....?

- Loss of supernatural support so that we can rule and reign on this earth.

***** Another example.....:

1 Corinthians 11:27-34

- That supports the Illegitimate Son Picture.

Does God use
sickness and
accidents and
other hardship as
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Does God use sickness and accidents and other hardship as these refining fires?

Again: there is no NT evidence that God will cause/initiate sickness, disease, calamity, accidents, etc. to teach a believer something / or discipline them.

> But once they are in place, he will work with us in the middle of the problem to get our attention so we can get free of.....

> He doesn't leave us alone in the problem.

- But he didn't cause the problem either.

In a Discipline situation

- The thing that is happening that is supposed to get our attention to make whatever corrections that are needed.
 - The fact that our faith and our prayers are doing nothing.
 - Illegitimate son picture
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