

**The Book of 1 Peter**  
Chapter 1 Verses 1-9  
**“Refined In The Fire”**

Return To  
All Commentary

In 1885, The United States Mint, in the creation of Gold Coins that were used as the currency of the United States, had a very interesting process for making the Gold ready to be used.

The place that the Gold is refined, was called “**The Separation Room**”.

- ⊞ **Now, understand** that most of the Gold that was to be used in the production of Gold coins, came from the hands of depositors, leaving them with many foreign impurities.
- ⊞ **First**, the Gold to be used, had to be super heated until it became a liquid, breaking down and separating all of the things that are in the Gold.
- ⊞ **Next**, an outside metal such as silver, is added to the liquid Gold, as well as a certain quantity of Nitric Acid.
- ⊞ **These outside ingredients** served to help separate the Pure Gold from any of the other foreign substances that might be present in the Gold.
- ⊞ **It might seem as though** the acid that is introduced into the gold would dissolve it and ruin the Gold.
- ⊞ **Actually**, The Acid separates the Gold from the other impurities that might be present.
- ⊞ **The Silver solution** is then drawn off from the Gold and removed, leaving the pure Gold at the bottom of the pan where it is gathered up and washed.

After the Gold has been separated from it’s impurities, it was placed in a “**Drying Cellar**” where it is put under pressure of some 80 tons.

- ⊞ **This tremendous pressure** forces all of the water out of the Gold.
- ⊞ **The Gold is then dried with heat** and then formed into “Cakes” that are ready to be made into Gold Coins.

**We sang a song this morning that tells of this refiners fire...**

*“Purify my hear, let me be as gold and precious silver, Purify my heart,  
let me be as gold, pure gold*

*Refiner's fire, My heart's one desire, is to be holy, set apart for You Lord.  
I choose to be holy, set apart for you my master, ready to do your will.*

*Purify my heart, cleanse me from within and make me holy.  
Purify my heart, cleanse me from my sin, deep within”*

## **In large Part, the Theme of The Book of 1 Peter, is about the Refining Process that the person who has given their life to Jesus, Goes through.**

When we are first placed in the Masters hands, we are full of impurities.

- ⊕ **Jesus takes our life**, just like it is, right where we are, and then He completely purifies it by the Blood that He has poured out for us, when Jesus paid for all of our sins on the Cross.
- ⊕ **And, for most of us**, we assume that as soon as we have come to know Jesus, the Lord would just begin to use us and bless us abundantly.

Unfortunately, the process of preparing us as an instrument that can be used, is not complete yet.

- ⊕ **Like the Gold**, we must be placed in a “**super heated**” environment for awhile, where we feel the fires of trials...
- ⊕ **Outside elements** like the Silver and the Acid, that was placed in the liquid Gold that help to separate the Gold from these impurities, are introduced into our struggles...
- ⊕ **Sometimes these outside elements** are Trials with people, who hurt us, misunderstand us, or even abandon us.
- ⊕ **Sometimes these elements** of our trials by fire include things we have absolutely no control over like the Loss of finances, the loss of a home, a struggle with a job or even the loss of a loved one.
- ⊕ **Some of these elements** break our heart completely in two and bring us to the very end of our self where we feel utterly helpless.

After the impurities have been drawn away, we are placed in a “Drying Cellar” where we are again placed under tremendous pressures that “Forces out all the remaining things that we don’t need in our life.

- ⊕ **Things that we have been addicted to**, things we were a slave to, even things that are in our life that once seemed like we couldn’t live without, we now find we no longer want in our life.
- ⊕ **Then, more heat and pressure is applied** to our lives that serves to “**Form Us**” into something that is usable by our Master, Jesus.

**This is the Refiners Fire, in the Room of Separation called Life, that Jesus uses for everyone that comes to Him to surrender their life to Him...**

### **1 Peter 1**

6 ... though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,  
7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ  
**The genuineness of your faith is much more precious than gold...**

- ⊕ Do I really love Jesus?

- ☞ What would it take for me to just give Him up and walk away?
- ☞ Have I really been changed?
- ☞ Are the things that I claim that I believe about Jesus real and genuine?

Did you know that you and I do not really have the capacity to know these things about ourselves?

### **Jeremiah 17:9**

“The heart is **deceitful** above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?

In the Hebrew language, “*Deceitful*” is the word **Aqob** (aw-kobe’), “**A Fraud**”

- ☞ **Our heart is “A Fraud”**, What we think that we know about ourselves, our heart deceived us into believing, while in reality, we are completely different.
- ☞ **The deception of our heart** is that we always believe that we are much better than we really are.
- ☞ **We do not see** what is really in that heart of ours, the evil, the selfishness, the lust, the greed, the anger and the pride.

**Now, When we give our love to someone, we give them our heart.**

- ☞ **On the day** that you gave your life to Jesus, along with giving your life to Him, went your heart, your feelings, emotions, your love...
- ☞ **And all of the** anger, pride, lust and selfishness...

The problem is that this heart we gave to the Lord is full of all kinds of ulterior motives, and full of self.

- ☞ **So, through the trials that we suffer in this life**, we are made aware of what we are really like.
- ☞ **When we are under fire, under pressure**, have you noticed that things come out of us that surprise us sometimes?

You can be having the best day of your life, just a wonderful day of enjoying the Lord's love and everything is going so well...

- ☞ **Then one person, or one little thing** can set us off and suddenly out of our mouth comes those things that are settled there in our heart.
- ☞ **We will say some of the most awful things**, or think some of the most vile or evil things.
- ☞ **We just sit down totally dejected**, “*Where did that come from...?*”

*“I wonder if I am even saved...how could someone who really belongs to Jesus act like that?”*

### **Matthew 12:34** Jesus said:

...For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

**Whatever is really there in our hearts, will come out of our mouth when we are under pressure or under fire...**

- ☞ **The fact that it surprises us**, the fact that we can't believe we just said that or thought that, is the evidence that what was in there in our heart, we had no idea.
- ☞ ***"The heart is deceitful, a fraud, above all things..."***

The Lord knows this, He already knows all these things that are there buried in your heart.

- ☞ **He knew these things** about you and I even before He died for us.
- ☞ **And He loves you in spite** of His intimate knowledge of all the rotten things that are there in your heart.
- ☞ **And hey**, they are there in the heart of every person that has ever been born!

**That is why David could right in the Psalms:**

### **Psalms 14:3**

They have all turned aside, They have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one

And David was a man who learned about the deceitfulness of his own heart, the hard way.

- ☞ **The Book of 2 Samuel** records that during the time of the year that the kings had gone out to battle, David was up on the roof of his palace looking around.
- ☞ **He saw on a rooftop nearby**, a young woman called Bathsheba, taking a bath.
- ☞ **He sent for her** to come to him and he had an adulterous affair with her.
- ☞ **To hide his sin**, David called for Bathsheba's husband Uriah to be sent to the front lines of the battle where he would be killed.
- ☞ **Then David lied** and covered up the whole event.

One day Nathan the Prophet came to David and told David, the King who was once just a shepherd boy tending sheep out in the fields, a story of a rich man who was going to have a party for his friends.

- ☞ **Instead of taking a sheep from his own flock**, this man took the lamb of a poor man and killed it.
- ☞ **David became furious**, *"I tell you this man shall pay four times what he took..."*

**Nathan pointed his finger at David and said to him "David, You are the man..."**

- ☞ **David realized** that although he had hidden his sin so well from everyone, he had not hidden it from the Lord.
- ☞ **David had his heart broken** as he came to his senses, and realized all that he had done.

- ☞ **He fell on his face before the Lord** and said to Him, the words that David recorded in Psalm 51:

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

- 1 **Have mercy** upon me, O God,  
According to Your lovingkindness;  
According to the multitude of Your tender mercies,  
Blot out my transgressions.
- 2 **Wash me** thoroughly from my iniquity,  
And cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For **I acknowledge** my transgressions,  
And my sin is always before me.
- 4 **Against You**, You only, have I sinned,  
And done this evil in Your sight—  
That You may be found just when You speak,  
And blameless when You judge.
- 5 **Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity**,  
And in sin my mother conceived me.
- 6 **Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts**,  
And **in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom**.

The “*hidden Part*” that David is speaking to the Lord about is a reference to the fact that he did not know that all of these things were there in his heart until he saw himself for who he really was in the midst of his sin with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband Uriah.

- ☞ **After this**, David was a different person, he now knew just how deceitful his own heart was, and he understood that only a total reliance upon the Lord would sustain him.

**2 1/2 million people learned this same lesson the same hard way.** When Israel was set free from Egypt after being slaves for 400 years, They were just 11 days journey away from the land and the life of blessing that the Lord had promise to them...

- ☞ **But as soon as the journey started**, the people began to complain against the Lord.
- ☞ **We learned last Wednesday** during our study in **what Holiness is**, that when we complain against the Lord, what we are really saying is the “*The Lord is not Holy...*”

Holiness means that everything that the Lord does is always righteous, good and loving, perfect and from all evil....

- ☞ **When we complain against the Lord**, what we are really saying is that “*The Lord is not really Righteous, good, and loving, otherwise He would not have let this happen to me...*”
- ☞ **We are really saying**: “*The Lord is not Holy, He has some evil ulterior motive, He doesn't love me as much as others, He is not really fair...*”

In essence this is worse than saying that God doesn't exist at all.

- ☞ **Because by bringing into question** whether what God is doing in my life is fair or right, I rob Him of His Holiness, His perfection of Righteousness.
- ☞ **I make Him a Deformed**, Gross and strange kind of God.
- ☞ **This is far worse** than just denying that He exists at all.

So, these 2 1/2 million people that should have made it into all that the Lord wanted to Bless them with, didn't make the journey in 11 days, it took them 40 years.

- ☞ **And worse yet**, every single one of those complainers died in the desert during those 40 years, except Joshua and Caleb who had defended the goodness of God.
- ☞ **Only the children of those 2 1/2 million** made it into Gods promises, all those who complained died, never having obtained anything.

When Moses stood before the children of the original 2 1/2 million, as they were just about to cross over the Jordan river and enter into the land God had promised them, listen to what Moses told them...

### **Deuteronomy 8:2-3**

2 And you shall remember that **the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart,** whether you would keep His commandments or not.

3 **So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger,** and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, **that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.**

1. **It was the Lord** who led you through this wilderness.
2. **He let you go through the wilderness** to Humble you and test you.
3. **The test was not so that God could see** what was in their hearts, He is God, He already knew what was in there.
4. **The test was for the people**, who's hearts were just like ours, "*Deceitful above all things and desperately wicked...*"
5. **By going through the wilderness** of their life, they learned about themselves.
6. **What was really** in their hearts.
7. **So, the Lord Humbled them**, as He is humbling us in our own wilderness trials right now.
8. **He allowed them** to go without and to hunger, just as he will allow you to do without and to hunger...
9. **He did this** so that they and we would learn that we do not live and have our being in material things of this world, but IN EVERY WORD THAT COMES FROM THE LORDS MOUTH...

**This is what Peter describes for us here in chapter 1**

## **1 Peter 1**

**1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ**, To the pilgrims (Strangers) scattered in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

2 elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

**Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ...did not start off an apostle of Jesus Christ.**

- ☞ **Peter started off** as a selfish, self serving, prideful, impulsive silly man.
- ☞ **Every time** Peter opened His mouth, He stuck his own foot in it.
- ☞ **Peter was a guy always ready** to shoot his mouth off

***“Ready, Shoot, Aim...”***

- ☞ **That was Peter**, before Jesus rose from the dead.
- ☞ **After Peter was trained** by his own trial of denying that he even knew Jesus after Jesus was arrested, Peters heart was crushed and broken.

**Right after Jesus had told Peter that He was going to Jerusalem where He would be crucified, Peter told him “No Way Lord...” “I will die for you Jesus...”**

**Jesus told Peter, “No Peter, actually tonight when I am arrested, you are going to deny that you even know who I am, 3 times...”**

***“...But Peter, I will not stop loving you when you fail me...and when you recover from this heart breaking trial...take what you learned from your whole experience and go back and strengthen the rest of your brothers...”***

## **Luke 22:32**

But I have prayed for you Peter, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”

**So, when Peter speaks about the refining process of trials, he knows what he is talking about!**

## **1 Peter**

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who **according to His abundant mercy** has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

**Aren't you glad that everything you are going to receive, is according to “His abundant Mercy...?”**

- ☞ **He will not Bless your life** because you deserve it or don't deserve it.
- ☞ **He will Bless your life** “According to His Abundant mercy...”
- ☞ **Remember, Mercy** is not getting what we really deserve...

- ☞ **We all deserved punishment** for our sins, but Jesus in His abundant Mercy was not willing that you would EVER suffer any punishment for your sins, so He took your place and paid for your sins...
- ☞ **Will He not then also give to you** every good thing? Of course He will...!

4 **to an inheritance incorruptible** and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

**This is what you are called to:**

- ☞ **Right now, in heaven** there is your inheritance, all of the treasures of the Universe, they are already yours!
- ☞ **Verse 4 says** that they are “*Reserved in Heaven for you...*”
- ☞ **When you check into the front desk of heaven**, Gabriel will say to you, “*Greeting beloved of the Lord, we have been expecting you, come with me please your suite is all ready for you, it was reserved in your name by Jesus 2,000 years ago...*”

### **Ephesians 1:18**

I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand **the wonderful future he has promised to those he called**. I want you to realize what a rich and glorious inheritance he has given to his people.

### **1 Peter**

5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

**We are kept by the “Power of God”**

- ☞ **Not the power of our Job**, or money or credit line or retirement fund.
- ☞ **You are kept by the power of God**, How great is that power?

This is the same power that hurled the estimated 70 sextillion stars into space, the same power that Raised Jesus from the Dead. What kind of power would it take to do these things? This is the same power that is holding on to you right now, keeping you...

### **1 Peter**

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,

7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

**Yes, in this mighty power that holds on to us, we greatly rejoice in that...**

- ☞ **But for the time being**, for a little while...
- ☞ **The Greek word** here for “Little While”, the description of how long your trials are going to last, is “**Oligos**” (**ol-ee’-gos**) “*Puny, in the extent of all eternity*”

- ☞ **How long are your trials going to last...**Just a “Puny little time...compared to the never ending time that you will spend in perfect fullness of Joy with the Lord.
- ☞ **Perhaps a just few years more,** This compared to 100 Billion, Billion, Billion years, in complete perfection, and fullness of Joy...and even 100 billion, billion, billion years is only a small part of forever!

**So, for the time being, through these trials that show us what our heart is really like and how desperate we are to depend on the Lord for everything, we endure these things, knowing that they come by the most loving and gracious hands in the universe...**

- ☞ **And when it is all over,** and the last trial you will ever have is completed, they what is left, YOU are far more precious than even pure Gold

### **1 Peter**

8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,  
9 receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

**You are a very strange bunch of people...**

- ☞ **You are in love** with someone you have never seen?
- ☞ **You are believing** and trusting in someone you have never see or met?
- ☞ **Your entire eternal life** you are trusting in someone you have never seen in the flesh?
- ☞ **How can you do that?** YOU ARE SO GULLIBLE!

**Because of His Word!.**

### **Romans 10:17**

So then faith comes by hearing, ... the word of God.

**Our faith is also an intellectual faith.**

1. **The bible has contained in it,** what The One who Wrote it claimed would be our proof that He is God and that the Bible is Gods Word without error. Predictive and Fulfilled Prophecy.
2. **The bible is unique amongst every other document in the world,** in that it is so bold that it would actually predict 3,500 predictions hundreds or thousands of years before they happened with 100 percent accuracy.
3. **Today as we sit here,** more than 3,000 of those predictions have already come to pass exactly as God said they would happen, as recorded in the Bible.

If we took just 8 of the more than 300 prophecies that Jesus fulfilled when He came and examined them from a scientific, mathematical probability, the odds of one person in all

of history fulfilling just 8 of these prophecies is beyond the realm of just accident or chance.

1. **Place of birth** (Micah 5:2)
2. **Time of birth** (Daniel 9:25; Genesis 49:10)
3. **Manner of birth** (Isaiah 7:14)
4. **Betrayal by a close friend** Zechariah 13:6
5. **The Manner of their death** (Psalm 22:16)
6. **The people who saw the death, their reactions** (Mocking, spitting, staring, etc.) Isaiah 53, Psalm 109, Psalm 22)
7. **The Piercing of His side** (Psalm 22)
8. **The manner of his Burial** Isaiah 53:9)

Peter Stoner in Science Speaks (Chicago: Moody Press, 1963) determines the probability of one man fulfilling eight of the prophecies of the Old Testament for the Messiah to be **1 in 10 to the 17th power**.

Now let's try to imagine what this means. If we took that many silver dollars 1 to the 17<sup>th</sup> power (100,000,000,000,000,000) and laid them over the State of Texas, they would cover the state two feet deep.

1. **Now mark one of the silver dollars**, put it into the pile and then stir the whole mass thoroughly,
2. **blindfold a person**, and tell him/her that they can travel as far as they want but must pick up one silver dollar and say that it is the marked one.
3. **What chance would s/he have of picking up the right one?** It would be the exact same odds of anyone fulfilling eight of the Messianic prophecies by chance alone.

### **John 14:29**

29 I have told you these things **before they happen** so that you will believe **when they do happen**. NLT

### **Isaiah 46:9-10**

9 And do not forget the things I have done throughout history. For I am God--I alone! I am God, and there is no one else like me.

10 **Only I can tell you what is going to happen even before it happens**. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish. NLT

**This is why we love the one the Bible has revealed to us that loved us with such a great love that he died for us...and yet we have never seem Him!**

- ☞ **We believe in Jesus** and what He has done for us, because we know that only the Bible is true and accurate and 100 percent reliable.
- ☞ **We know that from the historical**, eyewitness testimony, as tested by the greatest minds the world has know, that **THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST IS THE BEST DOCUMENTED EVENT THAT HAS EVER HAPPENED!**

In the mid 1800's, there was a man by the name of Dr. Simon Greenleaf, who was "A royal professor of law a Harvard university."

- ⊕ **Dr. Greenleaf wrote a famous manual called** "A treatise on the law of evidence" which is still considered to be the greatest authority ever written on what constitutes real evidence in a court of law.

In 1846 while still a professor at Harvard, Dr. Greenleaf, who was an atheist, was challenged by one of his students "**To try and disprove the resurrection of Jesus Christ**".

- ⊕ **After an intensive study** of the historical records of the Resurrection of Jesus, Dr. Greenleaf wrote his finding in a Book called "An examination of the four gospels by the rules of evidence as administered in the courts of justice".
- ⊕ **Dr. Greenleaf examined from a legal aspect** The Bibles 4 Gospels with the "Internal evidence of the scriptures that contain the life of Jesus."
- ⊕ **Dr. Greenleaf's conclusion was that** "The man Jesus Christ did live and die upon a roman cross and was raised from the dead". He said He proved this beyond any reasonable doubt, from the historical record.
- ⊕ **Dr Greenleaf is still known today** "As one of the greatest legal minds the world has ever known".
- ⊕ **Many of the rules** used in the courts of law are still based on Dr. Greenleaf's rules of evidence that he used to prove the 4 Gospels were genuine and that Jesus did rise from the dead.

**Dr. Greenleaf, an atheist, became a believer in Jesus after examining the evidence.**

### **1 Peter 1**

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7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ

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