



the Potter's Hands

Jeremiah 18:1-6

A Teaching Series By Dr. Hampton Drum

The Potter's Heat

1 Peter 1:7

Introduction:

“Fire has always been a timeless tool for testing and authenticating precious valuables. Gold, silver, and diamonds are all cleansed by intense temperature and restored to great brilliance.”

A trial that praises and pleases God:

1 Peter 2:20 *For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. (V.21) For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: (V.22) Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:*

I. There is the validation of the Potter's fire. (V.7)

The fire brings about an apostle Paul's level of sincerity:

Philippians 1:20 *According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.*

“Just as the assayer tests the gold to see if it is pure or counterfeit, so the trials of life test our faith to prove its sincerity. A faith that cannot be tested cannot be trusted.”

- Warren W. Wiersbe

A. The fire validates the genuineness of our faith.

“The fire's trial takes away the doubt, the second guessing, and the floundering, that often accompanies the immature Christian's life.”

1 Peter 1:7 *That the trial of your faith, being much more precious . .*

The Purpose of the furnace:

- ◆ The furnace prepares us for a life of service in the Master's use.
- ◆ The furnace meets needs in our spiritual walk.

1. Sometimes trials discipline us when we have disobeyed.

Psalms 119:67 *Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.*

2. Sometimes trials prepare us for spiritual growth or prevent the fall to temptation. (2 Cor. 12:1-9)

B. The fire validates the greatness of our faith.

1 Peter 1:7 . . . more precious than of gold that perisheth,

- ◆ The fire proves the genuineness of our faith.
- ◆ The fire demonstrates the depth of our faith.

II. There is the violence of the Potter's fire. (V.7)

A. There is the violence of the trial's heat in the fire.

1 Peter 1:7 . . . though it be tried with fire,

James 5:11 *Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.*

B. There is the violence of the temptation in the fire.

1 Peter 1:7 . . . though it be tried with fire,

1 Peter 1:6 . . . ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

"Peter uses the word 'manifold', which literally means 'variegated, many colored'. Peter had experienced the multi-faceted attack of temptation right before the death of his Savior."

Hebrews 12:15 *Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;*

III. There is the value of the Potter's fire. (V.7)

The Potter's fire gives the vessel strength, usefulness, and endurance:

James 1:3 *Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. (V.4) But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

“Impatience is often the enemy of victory. It pushes one to do something on impulse that they would never normally do. There are the famous words of impatience: ‘If I had only waited.’”

A. There is the forging value of the fire.

1 Peter 1:7 . . . might be found unto praise and honour

The value of fire to build honor into our lives:

- ◆ The fire burns away insincerity and forges a powerful seriousness.
- ◆ The fire makes permanent that which is temporary.
- ◆ The fire makes godly attributes to shine with brilliance in our lives.
- ◆ The fire makes the vessel usable. When the vessel is filled, its contents will not be polluted by dissolving clay.

B. There is the finishing value of the fire.

1 Peter 1:7 . . . and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

“The Potter fixes the clay, forms it, fires it, and glazes it so he can feature it.”

Ephesians 2:7 *That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*

1 Peter 5:10 *But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.*