



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

“Don't Mistake the Fire for Failure”

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts: 1 Pet 5:10-14

We've all had moments where things got hard—too hard—and we thought, “Did I miss God?” Somewhere along the way, we started equating peace with favor and difficulty with failure. But what if that's backward? What if the hard things, the fire, are actually part of what it looks like to walk in God's will? That's exactly what Peter is saying as he wraps up this letter to suffering believers scattered across the empire. He reminds them: you haven't failed. You've been called. And the fire you're in? That's where God's grace – His strength for you – meets you.

When life heats up, we're quick to interpret it as punishment or rejection. But Peter says the opposite: it's evidence of your calling. The fire is where the refining happens. It's not something you're meant to escape—it's something God uses to shape you. If we miss this, we'll keep trying to run from the very thing God wants to use to build us.

1. THE FIRE IS TEMPORARY, THE CALLING IS ETERNAL

Suffering isn't accidental, and it isn't always disciplinary. In verse 10, Peter reminds us that the God who called you into His eternal glory in Messiah also allows “a little while” of suffering. That phrase—“a little while”—is key. It's the Greek word *oligon*, meaning momentary, temporary. He's saying that the hardship you're experiencing has an expiration date. But the calling? That's eternal. The contrast is striking. We panic in the short-term fire, forgetting that we were called into something infinitely greater than the discomfort we're facing now.

And this calling includes walking the same path as Yeshua. In 1 Peter 2:21, Peter says, “*You were called to this, since Messiah also suffered for you, leaving you an example so you might follow in His footsteps.*” That means when we suffer for doing good—when we're misunderstood, rejected, or attacked because we're choosing obedience—we're not failing. We're following. The fire is not evidence that you've taken a wrong turn. It's confirmation that you're walking the same road Messiah walked.

2. THE FIRE DOESN'T WEAKEN YOU—IT BUILDS YOU

If you've ever felt like your legs were about to give out under the weight of what you're walking through, you're not alone. But Peter tells us what God is doing in the fire. In verse 10, he says God will “*restore, support, strengthen, and establish*” you. And the best part? It says *He Himself* will do it. God doesn't send a substitute to handle your restoration—He shows up personally. The God of all grace steps into the fire with you and starts rebuilding from the inside out. That grace isn't just pardon—it's power. It's the supernatural strength to stay when everything in you wants to run.

These four words describe the active work of God's grace in your life. He will restore what's broken—putting things back in their intended order. He will support you—steadily holding you up when your faith feels wobbly. He will strengthen you—not with shallow pep talks, but with the Spirit-empowered ability to endure. And He will establish you—laying a firm foundation that cannot be moved. These are not promises for people who never struggle; they're for those who stay in the fire and let God work. The fire isn't breaking you down—it's building you up. So don't walk away. Let Him finish what He started.

3. THE FIRE DOESN'T DEFINE YOU—THE FOUNDATION DOES

Too often, we let our current pain become our identity. “I’m weak.” “I’m failing.” “I’m barely holding on.” But Peter shifts our focus from what we feel to what is forever. He ends this letter by declaring, “*To Him be the power forever. Amen.*” In other words, the fire isn’t in control—God is. Rome doesn’t get the last word. Rejection doesn’t get the last word. Suffering doesn’t get the last word. God does. And the One who is shaping you in the fire is also securing you on the foundation of His everlasting rule.

Peter has been using construction language throughout this letter—calling us “*living stones*” being built into a spiritual house. That imagery matters. It means that your pain isn’t random. It’s chiseling you into a piece that fits perfectly into God’s eternal plan. Yeshua is the Cornerstone, and you’re being fitted to look like Him. You’re not fragile. You’re not forgotten. You’re being built. And when the fire is over, you won’t just survive—you’ll be secure, steady, and strong, because your foundation was never your feelings. It was always Him.

CONCLUSION

Maybe today, you’re in the middle of the fire—and it’s tempting to believe that God has stepped away. But the truth is, He’s closer than ever. The fire doesn’t mean He’s abandoned you. It means He’s forming you. You haven’t failed. You’ve been called. You’re not being punished—you’re being purified. The same grace that saved you is now shaping you. And He is faithful to finish what He started.

If you’ve been interpreting the fire as failure, surrender that lie today. Come before the God of all grace. Say, “Lord, restore me, steady me, strengthen me, and establish me.” Let Him reframe your perspective so you can stand—not in panic, but in peace. This is the true grace of God. And you can stand in it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think we often assume trials mean we’re out of God’s will?
2. How does comparing “a little while” of suffering with “eternal glory” shift your perspective?
3. Which of God’s promises—restore, support, strengthen, establish—do you need most right now?
4. How do you typically respond to hardship—do you withdraw, blame yourself, or lean into grace?
5. What would it look like to let your foundation be Messiah rather than your current emotions or circumstances?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Abba, thank You for being the God of all grace. Thank You that our suffering does not signal Your absence but highlights Your nearness. Today, we bring our pain to You, and we ask You to reshape our thinking. Restore what’s been broken, steady what’s been shaken, strengthen what feels weak, and establish us on the solid foundation of Your Son, Yeshua. Teach us to see the fire not as failure, but as formation. Let us reflect Your glory through every trial.

In the name of Yeshua our Messiah, Amen.