

The Flame That Forms Us [Healing]

Discussion Guide

Summary

This sermon focuses on the third step of the spiritual refining process - healing. Jonathan explains how God's refining process involves heating (pressure), identifying (revealing impurities), and healing (removing sin). Using Mark 7 and other scriptures, he emphasizes that true purity comes from inner heart transformation rather than outward actions. The message highlights that God desires to heal our hearts by removing sin, and this internal healing leads to external behavioral changes.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss Your refining process in our lives, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to Your truth. Help us to be honest with ourselves and with You about areas that need refinement. Give us the courage to be vulnerable with one another as we discuss Your work in our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

Share about a time when you tried to clean or fix something on the outside without addressing the root cause of the problem. What was the result?

Key Verses

- Proverbs 4:23
- Mark 7:20-23
- Romans 8:1-2
- James 4:7-8

Questions

- What is the difference between focusing on behavior modification versus heart transformation?
- How does the story of the Pharisees in Mark 7 relate to modern Christianity?
- Why do you think we often try to hide our sins instead of allowing God to remove them?
- What does it mean practically to 'draw near to God' during times of refinement?
- How can shame and guilt prevent us from experiencing God's healing?
- What role does genuine repentance play in the refining process?
- How does understanding that we're born with a sin nature help us approach God's refining process?
- What are some practical ways we can guard our hearts as Proverbs 4:23 instructs?

Life Application

This week, when you notice an outward behavior that needs changing, take time to pray and ask God to reveal any heart issues behind that behavior. Journal what He shows you and specifically invite Him to heal and refine that area of your heart.

Key Takeaways

- Purity comes through God's healing, not behavior modification
- External impurity comes from internal problems
- God wants to heal your heart, not just change your actions
- Drawing near to God results in Him drawing near to us
- There is no condemnation in God's refining process

Ending Prayer

Lord, thank You for Your patient work in refining us. We invite You to continue Your healing work in our hearts, removing impurities and making us more like Jesus. Help us not to hide from Your refining process but to draw near to You in these times. Give us the courage to be honest about our heart conditions and the faith to trust Your healing work. In Jesus' name, Amen.