



SPIRITUAL LIFE AND MESSAGE FOR JULY/AUGUST 2018

G. Bernice Richardson, Secretary

Opening Song: "His Name Is Wonderful"

His name is wonderful, His name is wonderful,
His name is wonderful, His name is wonderful, Jesus, my Lord.

He is the mighty King, Master of everything,
His name is Wonderful, Jesus, my Lord.

He's the great Shepherd, the Rock of all ages,
Almighty God is He; Bow down before Him,
Love and adore Him, His name is Wonderful,
Jesus my Lord.

Prayer: (As led by the Holy Spirit) **Scripture: Malachi 3:1-4**

Meditation: "Purifier of Silver"

Malachi 3:3 says "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver." This verse puzzled some women in a Bible Study and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible Study.

That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver. As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities. The woman

though about God holding us in such a hot spot; then she thought again about the verse that says: "He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver." She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time. The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined? He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy—when I see my image in it."

If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has his eye on you and will keep watching you until He sees His image in you. Pass this message on. Someone needs to know that God is watching over them and whatever they're going through, they'll be a better person in the end.

Life is a coin. You can spend it anyway you wish, but you can only spend it once.

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord,
We love You, we praise You and bless Your name. We thank You for refining and purifying us as silver. We will know that we are refined when you can see your image in us. Amen.