***Isaiah 48:10*** *(NLT) I have refined you, but not as silver is refined. Rather, I have refined you in the furnace of suffering.*

***Romans 5:3-4*** *(NLT) We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. [4] And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.*

****It is amazing but God more often than not chooses to shape and mold us by using hardship and difficulty in our lives. When we are the ones being shaped, molded, and purified we may not enjoy the process but we must remember God really does know what is best for us. If we long to become more like Jesus Christ in our everyday lives it will take submitting to Him even in the areas of hardship and difficulty.

**Life Application Bible Notes: "**Do you find it easy to complain when your life becomes complicated or difficult? Why would a loving God allow all kinds of unpleasant experiences to come to his children? This verse shows us plainly that God tests us in the "furnace of affliction." Rather than complain, our response should be to turn to God in faith for the strength to endure, and rejoice in our sufferings. For without the testing, we would never know what we are capable of doing, nor would we grow. And without the refining, we will not become more pure and more like Christ.**"**

**PRAYER:** Lord, help me to accept the refining process that you are using in my life. Help me to rejoice in the fact that You know what You are doing and You want me to become more and more like the Lord Jesus in my walk.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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