



The Bible Banner



October 2016

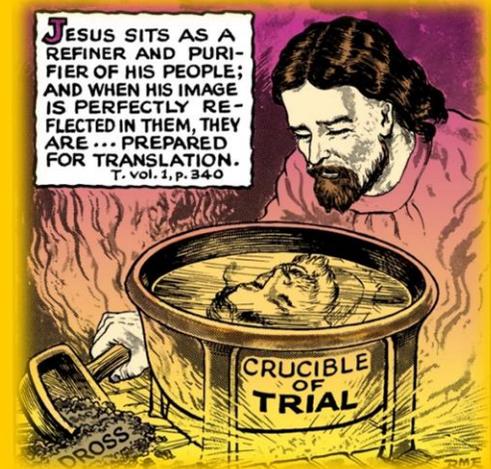
Tried and Purified

"And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness." Malachi 3:3

A lady who was studying the beautiful verse in Malachi, "He shall sit as a called refiner and purifier of silver," called on a silversmith and begged to know from him the process of refining silver. He described it fully to her, when she said, "But, sir, do you sit while the work of refining is going on?" "Oh, yes, madam," replied the silversmith, "I must sit with my eyes steadily fixed on the furnace; for if the time necessary for refining be exceeded in the slightest degree, the silver is sure to be injured."

At once she saw the beauty and the comfort too, of the expression, "He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver." Christ sees it needful to put His children into the furnace, but He is seated by the side of it. His eye is steadily intent on the work of purifying, and his wisdom and love are both engaged in the best manner for them. Their trials do not come at random. The very hairs of their heads are all numbered. As the lady was leaving the shop, the silversmith called her back, and said he had still further to mention that he only knew when the process of purifying was complete by seeing his own image reflected in the silver: Beautiful figure! When Christ sees his own image in His people, His work of purifying is accomplished. –

Selected



Squash Duo Casserole

- 1 lb. of zucchini
- 1 lb. summer squash
- 1 water-packed tofu, crumbled
- 1 tsp chicken seasoning
- 3 Tbsp. nutritional yeast
- 1 cup crushed crackers or cereal, crushed
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 batch tofu sour cream
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp onion powder
- 2 Tbsp. oil

Grate squash. Sauté onion. Mix ingredients together. Bake in oiled 12"pan for 45 minutes at 350°F.



CHRIST

He is a path, if any be misled;
 He is a robe, if any naked be;
 If any chance to hunger, He is bread;
 If any be a bondman He is free;
 If any be but weak, how strong is He!

To dead men life He is, to sick men health;
 To blind men sight, and to the needy wealth;
 A pleasure without loss, a treasure without stealth.

—Giles Fletcher

Buy of Me Gold

It is man's automatic reaction to want to put his trust in something. Today, because of an unstable economy, investing in gold has become quite popular. People believe that when paper money becomes worthless they can trust in the more stable value of gold. But even gold can become lost or stolen and since you can't eat it, it is only valuable as long as you can sell or trade it. The Bible makes it clear that riches are unstable. *"Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven."* Prov. 23:5



Yet, I find it interesting that in a time when many are calling "Buy of me gold", Christ, the heavenly Merchantman says to Laodicea, *"I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich..."* Rev. 3:18

Just what is this gold? The only description given here in Revelation is that it is "gold tried in the fire". One meaning of this gold is the gold of truth in God's word (as opposed to the dross of error and tradition). The Bible repeats twice that the word of the LORD is tried. *"As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him."* 2 Sam. 22:31, Psalm 18:30 God's law and commandments are also described as gold in the words of one of my favorite scripture songs. *"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb."* Psalm 19:7-10 And the words of that Psalm are reiterated in Psalm 119:127 *"Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold."* So we are to buy of Christ the gold of truth.

In addition, *"The gold here recommended as being tried in the fire, is faith and love. It makes the heart rich; for it has been purged until it is pure, and the more it is tested, the more brilliant is its luster."* {Youth's Instructor, April 22, 1897 } Love is represented by gold because it is the fulfilling of the law. Romans 13:10 says *"Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law."* This is love toward both God and man, it is the gold of character. *"And Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."* Matt. 22:37-40, 1John 2:5 tells us that *"...whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected..."*

All humanity
must be tested
and tried.

Gold also represents faith. 1 Peter 1:7 explains that faith is tried with fire, *"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:"*

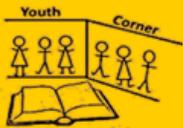
All humanity must be tested and tried. Like so many before—Abraham, Job, the Israelites and Daniel—they must be tested or proved. Deut. 8:2 records, *"And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no."* The soundness of our principles will be tested, and the strength of our loyalty will be proved. Unfortunately, some love this world so much that it swallows up their love for the truth. Many, like the Israelite have their present wants supplied, yet they will not trust the Lord for the future. Instead of faith, they manifest unbelief, and sink into despondency and gloom at anticipated want. When difficulties arise, or when they are brought into strait places--when their faith and love to God is tested, they shrink from the trial, and murmur at the process by which God has chosen to purify them. When put under test to stand for truth, some shrink with fear. They give up truth because of fear of censure, loss of property, or loss of friends. Many refuse to obey the truth through fear that they will lose their standing in the world or through fear of temporal loss.

There is only one answer, in order to "buy" this gold of truth, faith and love that has been "tried in the fire" we must have a relationship with Christ for He is the truth. (John 14:6) We must maintain a constant connection with God, for God is love. (1John 4:8) And we must daily study the character of Jesus for by beholding we are changed until we too endure (have patience) and "the faith of Jesus" (Rev. 14:12)

James 1:12 declares, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."

This quotation from one of my favorite authors says it all, "Now is the time for God's people to show themselves true to principle. When the religion of Christ is most held in contempt, when His law is most despised, then should our zeal be the warmest and our courage and firmness the most unflinching. To stand in the defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few--this will be our test. At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason. . . . The Captain of our salvation will strengthen His people for the conflict in which they must engage. . . . **Now is the time when we should closely connect with God**, that we may be hid when the fierceness of His wrath is poured upon the sons of men. All who will gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their defections, and loyalty from their treason, will triumph with the third angel's message." {Sons and Daughters of God 201}

BIBLE BREAD



"The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times." Psalm 12:6

There once was a time when the possession of a Bible was illegal. Those that possessed a Bible were burned if they were caught. One day during this time, a Frenchwoman was kneading bread in her house with her daughter sitting nearby. Every now and then, she would look at the open Bible on the table, and recite a Scripture text. Suddenly the daughter looked up and stared out the window. "Mama, two soldiers are coming up the path! What will we do?"

The mother replied calmly, "Trust in God, everything will be all right."

The soldiers burst through the door and strode into the house. "It has been reported you have a Bible. Turn it over to us now they demanded."

Calmly the mother replied, "I don't know who reported such a thing. You won't find a Bible in this house but you can search if you like."

The soldiers searched the house thoroughly. They checked for false walls and everything. They open the firebox and found no ashes from a burned book. They opened the oven, but there was nothing but baking loaves of bread. Finally, deciding it was a false report the soldiers left. The puzzled daughter could not figure out where the Bible had gone. But her mother told her she would have to wait until her Father came home. That night as the whole family sat down for supper, the mother asked to be the one to cut the bread. Reverently, she sliced through the crust, and began peeling the bread off of a black object. It was the Bible, hidden in the middle of the loaf.

Today it is hard to imagine having to hide your Bible in your Bread, but the time will come when again there will be religious persecution. Do you today treasure your Bible? Do you consider it the Bread of Life?



Memory Text:

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."



Patience saw a lily in the dirty pond. It was clean and white even though the water was dirty. Patience knew that Jesus wanted her to be like that lily. She asked Jesus to help clean her from sin.



Passion also saw the lily that was so clean and white. However, Passion didn't want to be clean from her sins, she still wanted to do naughty things. But the naughty things only made Passion unhappy and she wished she had asked Jesus to clean her from her sin.

GOD'S AMAZING CREATURES

Tigers are the largest member of the cat family. A tiger can reach the length of $4\frac{3}{4}$ - $9\frac{3}{4}$ feet. The tiger lives in tropical forests and on freezing mountainsides in Asia. Tigers normally travel by themselves, but they will sometimes travel in groups. Most tigers are orange and black, but a few are white and black. Tigers have stripes to help them hide in the tall grasses while they are hunting for food. Just like the tiger's stripes help to hide him, Jesus will hide and protect us from danger.



If you would like to begin receiving our monthly newsletter via e-mail, please contact us at biblepathways@hotmail.com
Or visit us at: biblepicturepathways.com swiftrunnerministries.com



STUDY TO SHEW THYSELF APPROVED -Tried to Purify

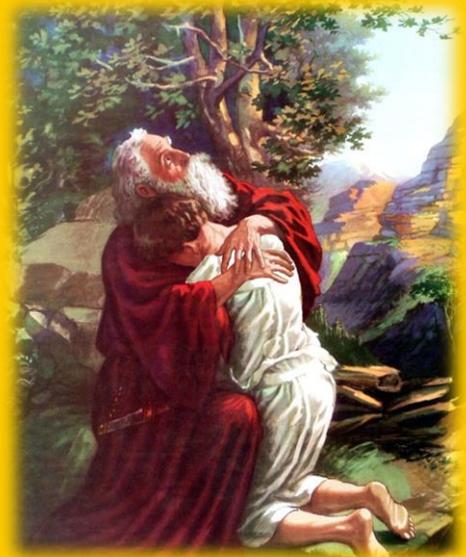
Trials come to God's people to purify their characters. Let's discover some of what the Bible teaches regarding the process of being tried.



1. God uses trials to try us and purify our characters, just like a refiner of metals uses the furnace of fire to purify gold and silver. "And I will bring the third part through the _____, and will _____ them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is _____: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my _____: and they shall say, The LORD is my God." (Zechariah 13:9) "For thou, O God, hast _____ us: thou hast tried us, as

silver is tried." (Psalm 66:10)

- The wicked are not purified by trials. "Many shall be _____, and made white, and _____; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall _____; but the wise shall understand." (Daniel 12:10)
- Job passed through trials and he said, "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath _____ me, I shall come forth as _____." (Job 23:10)
- Sometimes our faith will be tried like Abraham's was. "By _____ Abraham, when he was _____, offered up _____; and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son," (Hebrews 11:17)
- Trials teach us patience. "And not only so, but we _____ in _____ also: knowing that tribulation worketh _____;" (Romans 5:3)
- We are to rejoice even in our trials. "_____, think it not strange concerning the fiery _____ which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's _____; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." (1 Peter 4:12, 13)
- God gives a promise for those who endure trials. "Blessed is the man that _____ temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the _____ of life, which the Lord hath _____ to them that love him." (James 1:12)



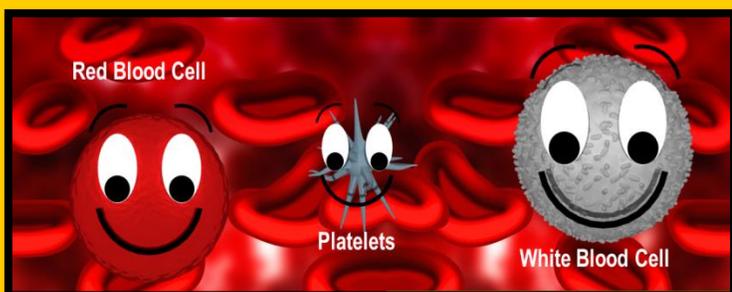
Answers: 1. fire, refine, tried, people; 2. purified, tried, understand; 3. tried, gold; 4. faith, tried, Isaac; 5. glory, tribulations, patience 6. Beloved; 7. endureth, crown, promised

HEALTHY, HAPPY AND PURE BLOOD

The Bible declares in Leviticus 17:11 *“For the life of the flesh is in the blood...”* Deut. 12:23 reiterates the importance of the blood saying, *“the blood is the life...”* *“In order to have good health, we must have good blood; for the blood is the current of life. It repairs waste, and nourishes the body.”* (1905) The Ministry of Healing, pg 271

All true healing practices are based on purifying or improving the blood. *“...for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”*

Lev. 17:11 The cleansing life-giving properties of the blood in the body are an object lesson of *“the blood of Jesus Christ”* that *“cleanseth us from all sin.”* 1 John 1:7 Just as no one can be saved from sin without the blood of Jesus, no one can be healed from disease without blood purification. *“When the blood is happy, the whole body is happy.”*



There are three major cellular elements in the blood, **Platelets** that help the blood to clot if you get cut **Red blood cells** that deliver oxygen to the cells **White blood cells** that protect from disease are a major part of the body's defense or immune system.

In addition, the blood is about 58% plasma. **Plasma** contains water as well as proteins, and other solutes like electrolytes, gases and nutrients.

So how can a person have good blood?

- **Water** – Since blood plasma is about 92% water, one of the first steps to having happy blood is drinking plenty of water
- **Fresh Air** -- In order to have good blood, we must also breathe well. Full, deep inspirations of pure air which fill the lungs with oxygen, purify the blood. Freedom from toxins and poisons
- **Temperance** -- The blood needs freedom from toxins and poisons like alcohol, tobacco, GMOs , pesticides, drugs, etc.
- **Exercise** -- Exercise quickens and equalizes the circulation of the blood. Perfect health depends upon perfect circulation
- **Nutritious Food**-- In order to make good blood, the system requires good food. Poor food cannot be converted into good blood. An impoverished diet will impoverish the blood.

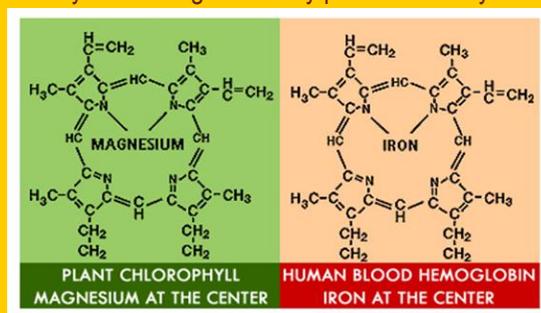
These 5 steps especially build, cleanse, vitalize, and purify the blood helping it to carry life and vigor to every part of the body system.

Plant foods containing “plant blood”, especially green leafy vegetables, are especially nutritious for the blood because the chlorophyll molecule bears a striking resemblance to hemoglobin, the red pigment in human blood.

Some herbs that also purify the blood include nettle, red raspberry leaf, dandelion, alfalfa, and red clover blossom. The dried and the fresh



flower heads of red clover made into a tea are especially beneficial, and one of my favorite remedies. *“Internally red clover is considered among the very best anticancer herbs. It is a powerful blood purifier...It fights infection...is soothing to the nerves...It is used for coughs, bronchitis, inflamed lungs, kidney problems, liver disease, weakened immune system, bacterial infections, HIV, and AIDS.”* (The Natural Remedies Encyclopedia, 6th edition, pg. 143)



God has made so many simple remedies that help our blood to be healthy, happy and pure. I hope you will try some of them today!



LITTLE RUNNER'S HEALTH TIP

Laurie the Lamb likes to eat lots of green grass. Green leafy vegetables like kale or spinach are good for little boys and girls to eat. They help to make good blood.