

PRAISE

4/18/2011

I praised God because I was glad for an answer to prayer. I praised God because I saw other people do it. For all of the praise to God our Father I said to Him, I realized I did not truly know the value of praise nor did I understand its importance.

The foundation scripture is Proverb 27:21, "As the fining pot for silver and the furnace for gold; so is a man to his **praise.**"

I have been thinking a lot lately about praise, and have been stretching out and thinking about other avenues to express praise to God. I spend quite a bit of time praising God throughout the day. I look for 'out of the box' praise as I look to praise God for who He is and what He can and will do. The effort is not to be a 'stuck record' repeatedly saying the same things to the point even I am wearied listening to them. I began to ask myself, "Why do I praise God? What value is it?" I felt like I was locked into format-thanks when there is so much more to God our Father.

Many are the scriptures addressing praise, and certainly many things may be said along with questions about the topic of praise. The purpose of this writing is to address the seat, foundation, of praise; therefore, my attention was drawn to the foundation scripture because of its comparison of silver and gold to praise.

I decided to examine the foundation scripture. My approach was systematic. The first question I asked was, "What are the things in common noted in the scripture?" First, there are pots for the Silver and Gold; namely, the fining pot and furnace. These are the holders of the material; two, Silver and Gold are common insofar as they are metals; precious metals. Three, heat is common for the fining pot and furnace for through heat the impurities in the metal are released leaving the metal purified. A cold pot or furnace does nothing to support the material within toward purification as the pots must be hot so the metal may be become molten. Through the process of heating the material becomes purified and the result is pure, precious, metal, and the heat is externally applied. The dross, impurity, rises to the top and is removed by the metallurgist from the metal as it is heated.

Now, what does all of what I said have to do with Man? Incidentally, for those who are over-sensitive to gender, the word 'Man' is considered to be the image of God; however, I am sure 'humankind' is also acceptable. Now, the spirit of man is a repository, a type of fining pot or furnace and holds the precious material, the spirit of man.

The spirit of man is strengthened with might, strengthened by God's Spirit in the inner man. When I worked at an Iron foundry, I watched as the molders prepared for casting the product into different forms. While the forms were being worked, another crew prepared the pots for the molten Iron. The pots holding the molten Iron were actually steel or some other metal. The crew lined the pots with what

looked like a clay material. Then the pots lined with clay were up-ended over a fire torch to both dry and heat the clay and pot. The purpose of the clay, I learned, was to prevent the hot Iron from melting the pot; and if not, both the pot and the Iron would be lost. This action is a clear representation of the first sentence, which is found in Ephesians 3. When the heart of a man has been strengthened with 'might' then the new wine may be added. The new wine, of course, is Jesus.

Praise coming forth from the mouth is the result of the refining process going on within the heart of man. The conglomeration of things we experience in this life are taken into ourselves whether good or bad, and into our mind, spirit, and/or body. What happens to those things as they are processed in the stew pot of our spirit is they become purified, cleansed of filth. The heat of the presence of the Holy Spirit melts the 'things' and gets rid of the dross, the boiled off refuse, impurity, of wanton regard for self. Our desires give way to the applied purging of the Holy Spirit and His Word as we are exposed to the purity of God. We pray and begin to see and live answers from God. We are happy; we thank God for answered prayer, and we praise Him by telling Him about Himself and how glorious He is as the infinite pre-existing God.