



## Giving Thanks For Trials by Fire

Have you ever been in the fire? The fire is said to have three purposes. One is to completely consume the sacrifice offered to the Lord. “And thou shalt say unto them, This is the offering made by fire which ye shall offer unto the LORD; two lambs of the first year without spot day by day, for a continual burnt offering.” Number 28:3. These sacrifices were offered daily and fully consumed by the fire as an offering to the Lord.

Fire is also for cleansing. It’s purpose is to burn off the dross, the unclean and produce a vessel holy and fit for the Master’s use. Numbers 31:23 says “Every thing that may abide the fire, ye shall make it go through the fire, and it shall be clean: nevertheless it shall be purified with the water of separation: and all that abideth not the fire ye shall make go through the water.” Fire brings us to the end of ourselves and produces total surrender. We learn to let go the things that defile and distract us, no matter the cost.

And finally, we understand that although it may not seem like it at the time, fire makes or helps us to grow. It forces us to total dependence on God and drives us deeper into His Spirit. Many years ago when I first heard Steve Green sing “Refiners Fire”, I sensed a deep and beautiful truth. Going through the fire, like the song says, “I’m learning now to trust His touch, to crave the fire’s embrace. Each time His purging cleanses deeper, I’m not sure I’ll survive.” But we will. It is that deep trust in His love and tender mercies. He is refining me, making me whole. No matter what I may lose, I choose the Refiner’s fire.

### THE REFINERS FIRE Words and music by Jon Mohr and Randall Dennis

There burns a fire with sacred heat  
White hot with holy flame  
And all who dare pass through its blaze  
Will not emerge the same  
Some as bronze, and some as silver  
Some as gold, then with great skill  
All are hammered by their suffering  
On the anvil of His will.

The Refiners fire  
Has now become my soul’s desire  
Purged and cleansed and purified  
That the Lord be glorified  
He is consuming my soul  
Refining me, making me whole  
No matter what I may lose  
I choose the Refiners fire

I’m learning now to trust His touch  
To crave the fire’s embrace  
For though my past with sin was etched  
His mercies did erase  
Each time His purging cleanses deeper  
I’m not sure I’ll survive  
Yet the strength in growing weaker  
Keeps my hungry soul alive

The Refiners fire  
Has now become my soul’s desire  
Purged and cleansed and purified  
That the Lord be glorified  
He is consuming my soul  
Refining me, making me whole  
No matter what I may lose  
I choose the Refiners fire

## Giving Thanks for You All

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making requests with joy, For your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now; Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace. Phillipians 1:2-7

I am so grateful for all of you and for your love that we share in the Lord. I am going to ask you to pray for Kim Tish at Grace Place. She has been diagnosed with a serious problem and will be needing surgery in November. We have taken in a new lady and Kim is working with her. We would ask for a total healing for her. Also a number of our staff have been going through surgeries and illness and we would covet your prayers. John needs your prayers also as he is dealing with a number of serious issues and some very hard decisions.

I want to wish all of you a very peaceful and blessed Thanksgiving. I have just returned from seeing my new grand-baby, Hanna and feel so blessed myself. God is great and God is good.

*Darrell Mitchell I don't remember the exact day when I went wanting drugs to 'needing' drugs. I just know that it happened and when it did, my whole life was not the same. For years I found myself in and out of prison from either dealing drugs or committing crimes in order to get more money to buy them.*

*When I started the Little Lambs School of the Bible I was searching for answers and my search led me to God. As I began to read God's Word I realized that only God could give me the strength that I was looking for. Through God's Word my life is not the same. I am writing you to let both of you know that life is not the same since I am studying the Word of God. I also want to thank you for all your love and time with me. May God bless the both of you through his grace and with all my love to you. Love and grace to you, Darrell Illinois*

Dear Little Lambs, I gave my heart to Christ Jesus in a one man cell at Florida State Prison on closed management Level 1, "the worst level" at 3:15 am on a early Thursday morning while going into a heart attack and stroke. My entire left side of my body went completely numb and my heart was beating so hard I was afraid to even breathe. I had been up for about 3 days snorting drugs in my cell non-stop! I did what I always did when scared or in trouble. I picked up my bible! Yeah, I know I'm not the only one what played that ace in the hole! I was looking for comfort. NO COMFORTING WORDS CAME TO ME! Basically, every page I turned (I turned many pages quickly), was God telling me straight up.. "NO!! You've done what you wanted for 36 years, over and over and over! This is your 5th time in prison! You stepped out 15 days last time and robbed a bank and came right back. I've been there for you through fatal car wrecks where I had My hand on you; overdoses where I had My hand on you; Rottweiler attacks where I had My hand on you; gang violence and prison riots where I had My hand on you and many other things. Here's all the things you've done to me and everyone else I've sent." And then He showed me all I'd done. It all came back!

Before that, I never really knew God could be so..so upset!!! HE WAS MAD! All my life I've had people praying for me and all my life I've been the result of sin and all my life I've done the exact same things as I seen people dying around me do. I did them over and over and over and over and over! Then God told me straight up! "You're fixing to go to hell. I'm done with you!" I had always been told God had His hand on me and deep down I knew it, because I was just too, too lucky! Always! It seems looking back that I had more lives than 7 dozen Kittens. But I was so stupid. I said over and over and over out of my own mouth that you can't outrun God, then I'd shoot another shot of meth. I used to read my bible while I was "geeking" (using) and pray! My grandparents raised me. My dad was in the Department of Correction all his life (prison) and he died of aids when I was only 16. My mom left me when I was 4. Well.....God was done! I knew He had his hand on me....because He took it off me! It may have been 2 or 20 minutes but I'd never felt so done!!! I was fixing to die. He told me I had played too many games and I was insincere! I told Him I wasn't even sure what sincere was! But my words just bounced back. It seems He wasn't listening. I started picking up Christian tracts and they all said I was going to hell! I didn't even finish reading one before I stated another. My life did sort of flash before my eyes, my sinful life! But I wasn't shedding tears! My heart was too hard. I was like, "God, I didn't even know this was that real!....I'm sorry.....nope....deep silence. So I got on my knees and I said 'God how can I be sincere?'" I looked at this track and one word jumped out at me! "Silence"??? I was always a sort of motor-mouth, silver tongue, car-man but was God telling me to shut up??? I seen Jesus on a cross, I really seen Him on the cross and I whispered to myself in amazement "He really died for me!! It's for real!" Then I broke a little and really cried. It was enough! The Holy Spirit hit me so hard it like to threw me through the ceiling!. I was on my knees on my bunk and now I was running around my cell shouting and laughing and screaming like a hamster in a cage at 3:30am and at FSP "DC wing". Down the hall only 4 wings was death row and I was yelling telling everybody "I got the Holy Ghost ya'll. It just hit me, it loosed my tongue and all. They all thought I was freaking out on drugs. They were surprised at breakfast when the chow carts came that I flushed all my drugs and cigarettes! Well, yet God healed me. It's been up and down a few times but I've been going uphill for 6 months now and the Lord is blowing my mind. He has made His Word start coming alive for me! I never knew I had so much death, and rebellion, and hatred and disobedience in me and a lot of it directed towards God!!! I am totally afraid to even pick up the bible especially when I know I'm in error, but I always do. I've learned that to God, there are no "small things". He takes even little ways seriously. He is still 'stripping' me, about Faith Now, Obedience Now! And Love! From Michael in Raiford FL

Greetings from your Brother in Christ Jesus To the Salas and Little Lambs Ministries

I cannot express the way that I feel about the Study Bible that I have received but I will try. When I first started this study I was told that at the end I would receive a certificate and a study bible. I was like wow! I need a Study Bible. But what I've got was more than I ask for. From the very first lesson, I received a blessing. The information about the universe and stars and light and I was amazed at what I was learning. So I started thanking God for the lessons that I would get from you all and I was able to share with others the info I was getting.

Well I can go on and on about the lessons. I just want you to know that I received the study bible and appreciate every lesson, tract, the blessing I've gotten from you. I pray that one day that I would be able to return such a wonderful blessing if not to you all that it be to someone else. This study bible has everything that I need to continue my journey with the Lord. I can go back through my lessons with this bible and learn more that what I learned before and as long as I keep this bible I will remember you all. And pray for your ministry. I am overjoyed to have this bible. It is hard to put down I has so many entries. Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Sala. I will forever remember you and maybe I might write to you. Bro. Kevin,

### **SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 2012**

Mondays...Overcomers @Little Lambs 7:30 pm  
Tuesdays...Overcomers @ Avon Park Prison  
Thursdays....Sexual Integrity Meeting every other week @ Little Lambs Inc.  
Parenting/Anger Management New Class  
To Ending November 9, 2012