

**November 15, 2009 Sermon Discussion Questions**  
***“Three Ways God Sustains Us in the Refiner’s Fire,” 1 Samuel 23:1-29***

1. What new trial was David facing in 1 Samuel 23:1-2? What did David do when he needed direction?
2. What method did David use to discern God’s will? Exodus 28:6-14, 1 Samuel 23:6  
Why do we no longer use this method of prayer?
3. Why did David pray? 1 Samuel 23:1-13.  
What lessons can we learn from David’s example of prayer?
4. From 1 Samuel 23:14 and Psalm 11:1-2, what kind of pressure did David face?  
Contextualize this to your life; describe a time or situation when you have been under immense pressure. Discuss the practical implications of living this kind of life; how was your life affected physically, spiritually, and emotionally?
5. How did God provide encouragement to David? 1 Samuel 23:14-18  
In what three ways did Jonathan strengthen David? Discuss what Jonathan did and did not do as he encouraged David?
6. Who has been a Jonathan in your life? What did they do (and not do) when you were going through difficult times?
7. Read, 1 Samuel 23:19-29, how did David’s enemies increase the pressure? How did God intervene and provide for David and his men? What do you learn about God from these passages? How has God made provision in your life at the very last minute?
8. God sustains us in the refiner’s fire through prayer, committed friends and supernatural help. Where do you need God’s sustaining grace right now? In what new ways will you ask God to give you the sustenance you need for today?