

Refiner's Fire – How we Become People after God's Own Heart – Week Seven

Three Ways God Sustains Us in the Refiner's Fire

1 Samuel 23:1-29

Introduction: After gathering a band of brothers around him, David now settles into his daily life as an exile, continually forced to flee the evil designs of King Saul. In this passage, the author reveals three common ways that God sustains and encourages us as we go through the refiner's fire. (Note: this passage begins and ends with clear instances of God's supernatural timing in the saving of Keilah and the saving of David.)

- 1. PRAYER – In the refiner's fire, God provides direction as we develop the discipline of persevering prayer. 1 Samuel 23:1-13**
 - A. In the refiner's fire, God will draw us toward the resource of prayer. 23:6
 - B. David uses prayer when he experiences *clear leading*. 23:1-5
 - C. But David also uses prayer when *life seems unfair*. 23:7-13
 - D. Question: How should we live in the tension of prayer?

- 2. FRIENDSHIP – In the refiner's fire, God encourages us through the support of committed friends. 1 Samuel 23:14-18**
 - A. David is under immense daily pressure. 23:14
 - B. David receives the encouragement of his good friend Jonathan. 23:15-18
 - C. Question: Do you have a friend like this? Are you willing to be this kind of friend?

- 3. SUPERNATURAL PROVISION – In the refiner's fire, God grants supernatural help precisely when we need it. 1 Samuel 23:19-29**
 - A. David and his men face growing danger. 23:19-26
 - B. But at just the right time, the battle is called off. 23:27-29
 - C. David retreats to a place of safety: the stronghold of En Gedi. 23:28-29
 - D. Question: Has God ever made provision for you at the very last minute?