FULL GOSPEL HOLY TEMPLE

Lord Purify Me

Sermon Notes and Study Guide

Isaiah 48:10 and Malachi 3:3

Message Overview

God's work in us is not limited to saving us from sin; He continues shaping our character so that our lives are sincere, consistent, and useful for His glory. In this message, the refiner's fire represents the difficult but purposeful process through which God exposes attitudes, motives, habits, and wounds that may be hidden from us. What rises to the surface is not revealed merely to shame us, but so that we can surrender it and grow. Correction should draw us toward God, not drive us away from Him. Spiritual maturity requires honest self-examination, submission to God's Word, willingness to receive correction, and daily dependence on the Holy Ghost. Rather than comparing our progress with someone else's journey, we are called to keep growing at the stage where God has placed us. The central prayer of the message is simple and searching: Lord, purify me.

Key Scripture

> “Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.”
> **— Isaiah 48:10, KJV**

> “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, KJV**

CENTRAL PRAYER Lord purify me

Key Points From the Message

1 Purification begins with honest surrender

The message opens with a prayer for God to remove anything that hinders His will. Purification reaches beyond outward appearance into motives, reactions, words, and desires. The goal is not merely to look the part, but to be real and consistent before God in every setting.

Supporting Scripture Psalm 139:23-24; Romans 12:1-2

2 Growth is the goal

Salvation begins the journey of spiritual development; it is not the end of it. Believers must keep learning how to live holy, submit the flesh, pray, hear the Word, and mature. Growth is personal, so comparing a new believer's progress with a mature believer's decades of experience can discourage rather than strengthen.

Supporting Scripture Matthew 11:29; 2 Peter 3:18; Philippians 2:12-13

3 Correction should draw us toward God

The sermon describes correction as an expression of covenant love. Like a loving parent who warns a child away from danger, God corrects for our good. His correction is not meant to make us run from Him; it should lead us back to the One who also comforts, binds up, and heals.

Supporting Scripture Hebrews 12:5-11; Job 5:17-18; Hosea 6:1

4 The furnace reveals what is hidden

Pressure can bring buried attitudes and unresolved wounds to the surface. Anger, pride, fear, jealousy, defensiveness, or lack of accountability may appear when we are tested. The furnace does not inform God of what is within us; it helps us recognize what we need to surrender.

Supporting Scripture Isaiah 48:10-11; Psalm 139:23-24; James 1:2-4

5 Character must be prepared for influence

The desire to be used by God must include willingness to be purified. Gifts and leadership ability are not substitutes for character. God can use seasons of waiting, correction, and testing to prepare us to carry responsibility without harming the people we are called to serve.

Supporting Scripture Malachi 3:3; 2 Timothy 2:20-21; 1 Peter 5:5-6

Putting the Message Into Practice

- Pray Psalm 139:23-24 slowly each day and give God permission to expose what needs attention.
- Notice one reaction that has surfaced under pressure. Name the emotion, identify the trigger, and ask what it reveals about your heart.
- When correction comes, pause before defending yourself. Test it by Scripture, receive what is true, and make a specific change.
- Choose one way to respond like Christ to someone who has mistreated or irritated you.
- Strengthen one neglected spiritual habit this week: prayer, Bible reading, worship, fellowship, or obedience.
- Encourage a newer believer without comparing journeys or pretending that growth happens overnight.
- Surrender one motive, habit, fear, or attitude that God has already brought to the surface.

My next step _____

Personal Reflection

- Where is my public Christian appearance stronger than my private consistency?
- What reaction or repeated struggle may be revealing something God wants to address in me?
- How do I normally respond when I am corrected: defensiveness, withdrawal, blame, or humility?
- Am I comparing my growth with someone else's journey instead of obeying God at my present stage?
- What might God be developing in my character before giving me greater responsibility?
- What do I need to place on the altar today?

Family Discussion

- What does it mean to ask God to purify our hearts, not just change our circumstances?
- How can pressure reveal what is already inside us? Share an age-appropriate example.
- Why can loving correction feel uncomfortable even when it is meant to help us?
- How can our family make it safer to admit wrong, apologize, and accept correction?
- What is one spiritual habit we can practice together this week?

Family challenge
Choose one evening this week to read Psalm 139:23-24 together. Each person may name one attitude or habit they want God to help them change. End by praying for one another without criticism.

Small Group Discussion Guide

Suggested time 30 to 45 minutes

Opening prayer focus Ask God for honesty, humility, and grace to receive His Word.

- When you hear the word purification, what picture or experience comes to mind?
- Read Isaiah 48:10 and Malachi 3:3. What do these passages show about the purpose and posture of the Refiner?
- The sermon says that growth is the goal. What is the difference between spiritual activity and spiritual maturity?
- Why are comparison and unrealistic expectations especially harmful to newer believers?
- How can we distinguish loving correction from condemnation or destructive criticism?
- What can pressure reveal about our motives, attitudes, fears, or unresolved wounds?
- Which part of the message calls for your most immediate response?
- What practical step will you take before the group meets again?

Group challenge Invite each person to practice one concrete response to correction this week and report what they learned at the next meeting.

Closing prayer focus Pray for purified motives, teachable hearts, healing from hidden wounds, and strength to endure God's shaping work.

Continue the Study

Day 1 Chosen in the furnace | Isaiah 48:9-11

Notice God's concern for His name, His refining work, and His glory.

Reflect What might God want to purify so that my life reflects His glory more clearly?

Day 2 The Refiner sits near | Malachi 3:1-4

Observe both the intensity and purpose of the refining process: a righteous offering.

Reflect What does this passage teach me about God's goal in purification?

Day 3 Invite God's searching | Psalm 139:23-24

David asks God to examine his heart, thoughts, and ways, then lead him forward.

Reflect What am I willing to let God show me today?

Day 4 Correction and sonship | Hebrews 12:5-11

Pay attention to the relationship between love, discipline, holiness, and the peaceable fruit of righteousness.

Reflect How can I respond to God's correction without despising it or losing heart?

Day 5 Faith proved through testing | Job 23:8-10 and 1 Peter 1:6-7

Testing can prove faith genuine and produce praise, honour, and glory when Christ is revealed.

Reflect What would faithful endurance look like in my present season?

Key Takeaway

God can use the furnace to reveal what is hidden, remove what hinders growth, and prepare a life that reflects His character.

Weekly challenge Do not only ask God to change the situation. Ask Him what He wants to change in you, then respond in obedience.

Closing prayer Lord, search my heart and purify my motives, words, reactions, and desires. Give me grace to receive correction, surrender what You reveal, and grow into a vessel fit for Your use. Lead me in the way everlasting. In Jesus' name, Amen.

My Notes Prayers and Next Steps

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