

Summer Soul Series – Refined 3

¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.
¹¹You brought us into the net; you laid a crushing burden on our backs;
¹²you let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water;
yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.

Psalm 66: 10-12 ESV

Summer Soul Series – Rest, Refined, Rooted and Released

1. Rest — God renews strength.
2. **Refined — God purifies through fire.**
3. Rooted — God produces fruit through you.
4. Released — God releases you for Kingdom work.

Key Truth: God’s people are called to respond to need and difficulty by purifying their hearts, surrendering to Him, and praying with confidence in His faithful love. Refinement may be painful, but it produces righteousness, rest, deeper faith, and sincere worship.

What This Means

- Righteousness – God purifies your thoughts and choices through refinement.
- Rest – God’s people can relax/rest during refinement.
- Faith – Your understanding of God’s power is revealed in a deeper state.
- Worship – Worship in truth happens in the experience of deliverance.

Sermon Emphasis

When life’s trials feel like a weak signal asking, “Can You hear me now?” believers can trust that God hears. Through refinement, surrender, prayer, praise, and remembrance of His faithfulness, God’s people grow stronger and give Him glory.

Three movements

1. **Future glory (vv. 1–4): Worship**
“Make a joyful noise” is a daily call to praise God. Praise is an outward, joyful response to God’s works; worship is the inward posture of surrender, reverence, obedience, and honoring God’s character. Genuine worship must be in spirit and truth.
2. **Previous faithfulness (vv. 5–7): Hope**
Remembering God’s past deliverance gives believers a reason for present hope. God delivered Israel, has delivered His people before, and keeps His promises. Christians should be ready to testify gently and respectfully about the hope they have in Christ.
3. **Continual protection (vv. 8–12): Trust**
God uses testing and refinement to strengthen His people, while remaining close and carefully watching over them. Like metal refined in fire, believers may endure difficult seasons, but God does not abandon them; He prepares them for deliverance and abundance.

Two Questions for Reflection

- ⇒ What/When was my last period of refinement?
- ⇒ What did I learn from it?

This Week's Practice for Refinement

- Each morning pray Psalm 66 slowly.
- Take one 15-minute praise and worship break daily.
- Share one example of God's refinement and outcome with someone.
- Acknowledge God's deliverance of you to HIM this week.

Prayer

Lord, fill our hearts with joyful worship and help us praise You in spirit and truth. Remind us of Your faithfulness so that our hope remains secure in Christ. In every trial, refine our trust, keep our feet from slipping, and lead us into the abundance of Your grace. Amen.

Small Group Discussion Starters

- What does it mean to "purify your heart" when facing a difficult season?
- Why can spiritual refinement feel painful, and what good fruit can it produce in a believer's life?
- How do surrender and trust in God strengthen us during trials?
- What is the difference between praise and worship? How do they work together?
- What are practical ways to make worship a daily lifestyle, not just a church activity?
- Why is both public and private praise important for a believer?
- How does remembering God's past faithfulness give us hope in present struggles?
- What is one time God answered a prayer, provided for you, or carried you through a tricky situation?
- According to 1 Peter 3:15, how can we share the reason for our hope with gentleness and respect?
- What does it mean that God is in control even when life feels uncertain or difficult?
- How does the image of metal being refined by fire help explain God's work in our lives?
- What is the difference between believing God allows hardship and believing He has abandoned us?
- In what ways can we encourage someone who feels overwhelmed by a season of testing?
- How does God's promise to be with us "through the waters" and "through the fire" change the way we face fear?
- What is one area of your life where you need to surrender more fully to God this week?
- What specific act of praise, worship, prayer, or testimony can you practice this week?

Quote

"God's past faithfulness is our present hope, and His refining presence gives us reason to trust Him through every fire and flood."