

## Removing Spiritual Dross

**Troubles** are destined to come into the lives of God's children – *health problems, financial difficulty, family challenges, etc.* They cannot be avoided. What we must **learn** is the “positive” role that they play in our lives as God's children. Knowing the truth about their role frees us from all **fear** and all **negative thinking** surrounding them.

**The Mystery**—When we were “born” into the world, we were born **flesh**. (*St. John 3:6*) The flesh “dominated” our *thinking*. Fleshly thinking is “ruled” by **Satan**. God is a **Spirit**. We are “born again” by Him. By our “New Birth” experience, we receive a new spirit. This is a spirit of **Faith**. (*II Corinthians 4:13*)

Faith

Refined

Pure

### Our Faith is like Precious Gold

Being born again, we are to *think, speak* and *act* only by **Faith** which comes from God through His **words**. (*Romans 10:17*) Our Faith is compared in Scripture to “precious” **gold**. (*II Peter 1:1*) What makes it so valuable is that God has ordained that we live by it. (*Romans 1:17*) Further, it is the only way that we receive our blessings from God. Here is what happens to gold. Gold ore is extracted from the ground. When it is extracted, it has **impurities** in it. The impurities are called **dross**. In this state, the gold is not as valuable as it will be. The dross is always removed. A **refiner** puts the gold ore into a “burning” **furnace** to melt it down and remove the dross. The process purifies the gold. This process does not hurt the gold. When he brings it out of the furnace, it is in a pure state.

### Spiritual Dross

As with precious gold ore, already existing inside our heart when Faith enters are evil impurities that oppose **Faith**. They are called **spiritual dross**. They prevent us from effectively exercising our Faith and receiving our rightful blessings from God. The impurities are:

- (1) Fear (*I John 4:18*)
- (2) Unbelief (*Hebrews 3:12*)
- (3) Fleshly lusts (*I John 2:16*)
- (4) Pride (*James 4:6*)

They must be removed for our Faith to become more valuable. (*Proverbs 25:4*) (*James 2:17*)

### Dross Removal

To remove the impurities from our heart, God sits as a “**Refiner**” of our Faith, just as the refiner refines silver and gold. (*Malachi 3:3*) He knows exactly what it takes to remove the dross from us. He has a specific “**system**” and “**process**” for doing so.

**Burning Furnace**— God uses a **spiritual furnace** called **afflictions**. These are “painful” troubles that we must enter and endure for His “good purpose” to be accomplished in us. As such, we must learn to view them as working for our good. (*Psalms 12:6*) (*Isaiah 48:10*)

**Trial**— God removes the dross from our heart by a “precious” process called a “**trial**.” Trials consist of “painful situations” brought on by events called **temptations** that we must “bear.” (*I Peter 1:5-7*) He puts us through these “fiery” troubles to melt our heart down. Then, He removes the **dross** from it. Troubles “only” serve to melt us down for dross removal. We must adopt this powerful thought for **comfort** while we are going through them. They do not harm our Faith.