
The Fire That Forges

The 10 Commandments of Conflict Resolution

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Sermon: The 10 Commandments of Conflict Resolution: The Fire That Forges

Lesson Text

1 Peter 1:6–7 (KJV)⁶ Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: ⁷ That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

Introduction

In the first part of this series, The Physical Connection, we've looked at 4 plans we must have for our relationships:

- Jeremiah 29:11 (BSB) For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you a future and a hope.
- Those Plans are our Battle Plan, Failure Plan, Victory Plan, and Needs or “Meal” Plan.

In our last message “The Needs/Meal Plan”, we learned that we need to Store It for our Future Needs, Fix It for our Physical Needs, Feel It for our Emotional Needs, and finally Fight for It for our Spiritual Needs.

For the next several messages, we will look at developing our plan for dealing with the conflict that arises in our relationships that inhibit and prevent them from fulfilling purpose.

Luke 17: ¹ Then said he unto the disciples, **It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!**

These offenses or conflicts prevent marriages from becoming one, friendships from bearing the infirmities of weak, encouraging one another to stand, praying for one another to be healed, and fighting with one another to get victory.

Now, although most of us hate conflict and do everything we can to avoid it, conflict is actually designed to forge two into one.

1 Peter 1: ⁷ That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

To forge means to make or shape by heating it in a fire or furnace and beating or hammering it; to create a relationship or new condition.

How do we forge two pieces of steel into one? Through heat (fire) and pressure.

In the workbook that accompanies our book, “The Relationship Battleplan,” we talk about the 10 commandments of Conflict Resolution. And what we reveal is that conflict is not our real problem with people, it is our inability to resolve conflict; we were never trained in it.

When properly handled, conflict can actually forge our minds into clearer direction of vision, it forges our emotions into a stronger connection, and forge our will into a deeper commitment.

Today, we will look at the fire of our conflicts not as something to be avoided because it destroys, but as something that forges to make us better.

Series and Sermon: The 10 Commandments of Conflict Resolution: The Fire That Forges
“The Fire That Tries, The Fire That Purifies, and The Fire That Glorifies”

I. The Fire That Tries (Forging The Mind)

1 Peter 1:⁶ Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

The first key to forging relationships and new conditions is forging our minds through trials.

1 Peter 1:6 (NLT)⁶ So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while.

What Peter indicates to us is the key to forging our minds during the fire of trials is rejoicing.

This is a great conundrum, enigma, or mystery; we don't like one trial of fire, how in the world are we to rejoice at the prospects of manifold temptation or many trials?

Years ago, there was a commercial for “Morton's Salt” that said, “When it Rains, It Pours!”

We don't just get one trouble; we get troubled on every side: 2 Corinthians 4: ⁸ *We are* troubled on every side, yet not distressed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

We don't just get afflicted; we get many afflictions: Psalm 34: ¹⁹ Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

So how does one “Greatly Rejoice” at the prospects of multiple troubles and many afflictions?

The two words **greatly rejoice** (Gr *agalliaō*) are one word in the original which conveys the idea of a strong, deep exultation. It's translated to the imperative to “Always Rejoice In This!”

So how do we “Always Rejoice In This?”; by recognizing that it's only a season.

1 Peter 1:⁶ Wherein ye greatly rejoice, *though now for a season...*

2 Corinthians 4: ¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory;

There may be trouble on every side; there may be many afflictions, but compared to the weight of the glory that's coming in the next season, these afflictions are light.

Galatians 6: ⁹ And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

II. The Fire That Purifies (Forging The Emotions)

1 Peter 1: ⁷ **That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire,** might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

The next key to forging relationships and new conditions is forging our emotions through purification.

1 Peter 1:7 (NLT)⁷ These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. ...

When the mind is filled with the negative thoughts of our many trials and afflictions, it will fill us with negative feelings and emotions.

Ephesians 4: ²⁶ Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: ²⁷ Neither give place to the devil.

What Paul is teaching us here is that when we allow our thoughts to meditate on our trials, they will invoke our emotions and produce anger. And when we allow our negative emotions to fester, they will ultimately produce behavior that's a sin against the will of God for our lives.

Whereas rejoicing forges the mind during our trials of fire, faith forges the emotions by purifying us.

Our lesson text is translated "These trials will show that your faith is genuine." In other words, the trials will reveal your faith.

We all are given a measure of faith; but in order for us to get to the next level, we must burn off the baggage and trash of a lifetime of negative emotions.

James 1: ² My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³ Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. ⁴ But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

This fire is designed to reveal your faith, increase your faith, expose your faith, and purify your faith.

When God called us, we had the capacity to do it, but the fire purifies our faith so we can do it!

2 Corinthians 5: ⁷ (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

III. The Fire That Glorifies (Forging The Will)

1 Peter 1: ⁷ That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, **might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:**

The Keys to forging relationships and new conditions is

- Forging our Mind by Rejoicing Greatly during our Trials
- Forging our Emotions by Increasing our Faith during our Trials

- Forging our Will by Revealing God's Glory after our Trials

1 Peter 1:7 (NLT)⁷ ... So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

We don't run from our trials; we rejoice in them. We don't remain angry during our trials, we increase our faith during them. And finally, we don't give up because of our trials, we reveal the Glory of God after our trials.

1 Peter 5: ¹⁰ But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle *you*.

The Fire Purges My Mind through Rejoicing: Psalm 34: ¹ I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.

The Fire Purges My Emotion through Faith: Romans 1: ¹⁷ For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

The Fire Purges My Will Through Glory: Romans 8: ¹⁸ For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Fire That Forges)

Lesson Text

- 1 Peter 1:6–7

Sermon Outline (Notes)

- I. *The Fire That Tries (Forging The Mind)*
- II. *The Fire That Purifies (Forging The Emotions)*
- III. *The Fire That Glorifies (Forging The Will)*

Questions (What was your main takeaway from Sunday's Sermon?)

I. Getting to Know "Me"

1. What is one goal you plan to accomplish before the year ends?
2. If money were not a consideration, what kind of car would you buy?

II. Into the Bible

1. James 1:2 is a cross-reference for 1 Peter 1:6. Now read James 1:2-8.
 - i. How does the trying of our faith produce patience?
 - ii. When will we know that patience has had her perfect work in our relationships?
 - iii. James goes on to admonish us to ask for wisdom when we lack it. What happens if we don't ask for wisdom while working through conflict?
 - iv. How can we be sure that we will receive the wisdom that we need from the Lord when we ask Him?

III. Life Application

1. The next time you find yourself with trouble on every side, what behavior will you display in order to obey the instruction to "greatly rejoice"?
2. The lesson teaches us that meditating on negative thoughts will lead to negative feelings that will hinder our faith. a) Give 3 examples of common negative thoughts a person may have when going through a trial. b) Give 3 faith-filled scripture-based thoughts that counteract those negative thoughts.