

SERMON SERIES: "Refiner's Fire: God's Resolution For A New Year"

SERIES DESCRIPTION: We usually start the New Year with an array of good wishes, renewed thoughts, new resolutions, great expectations. But have you ever wondered about God's resolutions for the New Year? The prophet Zechariah said: "This remnant I will put into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, 'They are my people,' and they will say, 'The LORD is our God.'" It is God's intention to create a People who can follow Him and be willing to be perfected in their lives. Sometimes the refining process is not an easy one, it may include painful experiences of the soul, the body and the mind. But God will refine us until he is able to see his reflection in our lives.

TODAY'S SERMON: "Repositioning Our Priorities"

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES: Matthew 6:31-34

THE BIG IDEA: When we reposition our priorities, that which has been pleasurable will no longer have the power to seduce us; that which has troubled us in the past will no longer have the power to defeat us. And that which is eternal will have the power to lead us into the fullness of God's Kingdom.

MY NOTES:

Key Aspects of Worry:

- Emotional Response: Worry is connected to feelings of fear, stress, or apprehension.
- Cognitive Focus: Worry involves fixating on potential problems or uncertainties clouding our minds with uncertainty.
- Overall Impact: Worry can progressively affect mental, emotional, and even physical well-being.
- Spiritual Dimension: Worry is often addressed as a lack of trust in God's provision and care (e.g., Matthew 6:25-34).

Key Aspects of God's Kingdom:

- It is Transformational: "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power." 1 Corinthians 4:20 (NIV).
- It is Incarnational: For the kingdom of God is ... a matter of... righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." Romans 14:17 (NIV).
- It is Transcendental: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah." Revelation 12:10 (NIV).