



# Do You Know ~~About~~ Jesus? (Part 11)

## How to Embrace the Hammer, the File, and the Furnace

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**SERIES TEXT:** Eternal life is to know you, the only true God, and TO KNOW JESUS CHRIST, the one you sent." - Jesus, John 17:3 CEV

**SERIES BIG IDEA:** Knowing Jesus is the key to knowing eternal hope, joy and peace in your life.

Growing ministries require growing ministers.

"Praise God for the hammer, the file, and the furnace." - Samuel Rutherford

### HOW TO EMBRACE THE HAMMER, THE FILE, AND THE FURNACE (Inspired by A.W. Tozer)

#### I. THE HAMMER

**Both the nail and the hammer are servants of the same Carpenter: Jesus. (ref. Mark 6:3)**

- God's in charge – always. Psalm 146:10 MSG
- "Is not My word... like a hammer that breaks the [most stubborn] rock [in pieces]?" - The Lord, Jeremiah 23:29 AMP
- Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds. James 1:2 NIV
- Endure hardship as discipline. Hebrews 12:7 NIV
- "I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out – plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for." - The Lord, Jeremiah 29:11 MSG

**Praise God for the Hammer.**

#### II. THE FILE

- Are you willing to trust The Master with addressing the rough edges of offense and unforgiveness in your heart?
- They had a FILE for the mattocks, for the coulters, for the forks, and for the axes, and TO SHARPEN the goads. 1 Samuel 13:21 KJV
- AS IRON SHARPENS IRON, so one person sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17
- **When people rub you the wrong way, God is probably using them to sharpen you.**
- God works all things together for the good of those who love Him. Romans 8:28a BSB

**Praise God for the File. It's working for my good.**

#### III. THE FURNACE

- **As gold is tested by fire, we are tested by trial.**

*With all this known to him, how could Rutherford find it in his heart to praise God for the HAMMER, the FILE, and the FURNACE? The answer is simply that he loved the Master of the hammer, he adored the Workman who wielded the file, he worshipped the Lord who heated the furnace for the everlasting blessing of His children." - A.W. Tozer, Prepared for Usefulness*

**Praise God for the Furnace. It's refining me of \_\_\_\_\_ (sin)!**

## Rev. Ryan's Recommended Refinement Reading

- ♦ *8 to 15: The World is Smaller Than You Think* by Tom Mercer
- ♦ *Another Gospel?: A Lifelong Christian Seeks Truth in Response to Progressive Christianity* by Alisa Childers
- ♦ *A Theology as Big as the City* by Ray Bakke
- ♦ *Be Still, My Soul: Embracing God's Purpose and Provision in Suffering* Edited by Nancy Guthrie
- ♦ *Black in Blue: Lessons on Leadership, Breaking Barriers, and Racial Reconciliation* by Carmen Best
- ♦ *Daze of Isolation: Diary of a Stuck at Home Mom* by Krista Ehlers
- ♦ *Echoes of Scripture in the Gospels* by Richard B. Hays
- ♦ *Finding Calcutta: What Mother Teresa Taught Me About Meaningful Work and Service* by Mary Poplin
- ♦ *Incarnate: Jesus Among the Broken* by Rev. Rick Cole
- ♦ *It's All About Jesus: A Treasury of Insights on Our Savior, Lord and Friend* by Randy Alcorn
- ♦ *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes: Cultural Studies in the Gospels* by Kenneth E. Bailey
- ♦ *Overcoming Life's Challenges: Lessons from the Life of Joseph* by Bill Crowder
- ♦ *Reading the Bible Intertextually* by Richard B. Hays
- ♦ *Road to Revival* by Vance Havner
- ♦ *Taking Your Church to the Next Level* by Dr. Gary L. McIntosh
- ♦ \* *The Bible*
- ♦ *The Church Looks Forward* by William Temple
- ♦ *The Circle Maker: Praying Circles Around Your Biggest Dreams and Greatest Fears* by Mark Batterson
- ♦ *The Great Physician: The Method of Jesus with Individuals* by G. Campbell Morgan
- ♦ *The Joy of Loving: A Guide to Daily Living* by Mother Teresa
- ♦ *The Overcoming Life* by D.L. Moody
- ♦ *The Power of Positive Thinking* by Dr. Norman Vincent Peale
- ♦ *The Pursuit of God* by Aiden W. Tozer
- ♦ *There's Hope for Your Church: First Steps to Restoring Health and Growth* by Dr. Gary McIntosh
- ♦ *Win the Day: 7 Daily Habits to Help You Stress Less & Accomplish More* by Mark Batterson

\*Bestselling book of all time!