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The Flames

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The Flames

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Zl12W6tJ50>

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

ISAIAH 43:2

Have you ever wondered what will be said about you after you're gone?

This week, I watched a video of George Strait speaking at a memorial service for his close friend and rodeo legend, Roy Cooper — affectionately known as the "Super Looper." Roy had tragically lost his life in a house fire.

George's tribute was soft-spoken, sincere, and at times delivered with a warm smile as he remembered their shared memories. His voice cracked with emotion recalling their adventures, but it was his final remark that stayed with me:

"And Roy really loved Jesus."

That one sentence echoed with power. Because no matter how fierce the fire, no tragedy can consume what God has already claimed. This is the journey of every believer — not destroyed, but refined.

When the world around you burns and everything feels scorched by loss or hardship, remember:

You are not forgotten. You are not forsaken. You are crowned.

Isaiah 43:2 assures us: "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze."

Pastor David McGee once asked: "Have you ever watched a goldsmith at work? Gold must be heated to extreme temperatures before it can be shaped and purified. Impurities—called dross—rise to the surface only under intense heat. Then, and only then, can they be removed.

"This is the process our Heavenly Father uses to shape us. Like the ultimate Goldsmith, He knows exactly how much heat we can endure. His purpose is never to destroy, but to refine — to mold us into the likeness of His Son.

"It's not always easy. In fact, it's rarely pleasant. But in His loving hands, even our pain becomes purposeful."

As 1 Peter 1:6-7 reminds us: "Though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials, these have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

There's a song by John Drolet called Crown of Fire that captures this beautifully.

"They said the fire would break me down. But all it did was forge my crown. Crown of Fire, I walk through the storm. I burn with purpose, not with pain. Let the smoke rise - let the fear fade. I'm sealed by fire and bought in blood. I bear your love like holy flames."

Whatever flames you are facing today — whether grief, hardship, or the refining fire of growth — may you remember God is with you in it all.

What the world sees as devastation, Heaven sees as transformation. You are being refined, not ruined. And in the fire, your crown is being forged. Praise God!

Karen Good

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