



1. Pastor Rick said that God sent Malachi to tell Israel that God was going to purify them just like gold and silver are purified. What does it mean to purify something and how are precious metals purified? Read 1 Peter 1:5-7. What do you think it means for God to purify our faith? In this passage what did God use to purify their faith? How do you think God would purify your faith?

*Answer—In order to purify anything, it takes heat to be applied so that the impurities are separated from what is desired to remain so they can be removed. God purifies our faith by applying the heat of hard circumstances in order to cause us to trust him. The impurities in us are anything that is not Christ-like in our lives.*
2. What does it mean to be devoted to something? What would it look like for a person to be totally devoted to God? What is the connection between devotion to God and having our faith purified by God?

*Answer – The definition of “devotion” is the act of dedicating everything to a person, cause, enterprise, or activity; to be completely loyal to someone. The purification of our faith (removing the sinful habits we have) has as its goal complete devotion to God in our lives.*
3. Read Matthew 6:24. What does this verse tell us about devotion to God? When we talk about God purifying us, is it always sinful behavior that needs to be purified? What does this verse tell us also should be purified?

*Answer—This verse speaks to the idea that putting anything in your life as being more important than God (like money, but could be anything) means that your devotion is not to God, but to whatever you make the highest priority in your life. For many Christians, it is their priorities that need to be refined and purified. What are you living for, what is most important to you?*
4. Read Malachi 3:8-11. God accuses Israel of robbing from Him. What were they doing that God called robbery? Robbery is taking something that belongs to another so how can not giving of their income, which was theirs, be robbery? Read Deuteronomy 8:17,18 to help with this answer. Do you think this principle applies to us today? Why?
5. What challenge did God give them in the Malachi 3:8-11 passage? Do you think this challenge and promise are still in effect for us? Can you think of a NT passage that says the same thing to us?

*Answer—In Luke 6:38, Jesus makes the same promise.*