

# Proverbs 17:3 “The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD trieth the hearts.”

This verse lists two precious metals, gold and silver. Both metals are acquired by extracting them from the ground then refining or removing the unwanted elements.



In Bible times, gold and silver were refined using three methods.



**WATER** was used to wash away dirt. This process of washing included multiple washings. The first washing, to wash away the heavy dirt particles, then a fine washing to remove dirt particles clinging in the crevices of the metal. This is a beautiful picture of the washing away of our sins at the time of salvation and God’s continual washing when we come to Him confessing sin with a repentant heart.



**FIRE** was used to remove unwanted metals intertwined with the gold and silver. This also was a multiple process using different levels of heat to remove or melt away the unwanted metals and free the precious metal. God uses the fires of trials and afflictions to remove the unwanted strongholds from our lives and set us free from bondage. Here is a great example of how unwanted metals in our lives can influence us: *If a cube of lead is placed on a cube of gold, the two metals slowly but inevitably begin to penetrate each other. In the same manner people become like the people and things that they are around. Though some may think that the gold will enrich the lead, the opposite is far more likely to prove true – the lead will debase the gold.*

I encourage you to read the following additional verses: Psalm 66:8-12, Numbers 31:21-23, Ezekiel 22:18-22, Proverbs 25:4.



**SALT** was used to separate the gold from the silver. Salt is a picture used frequently in the Bible to represent Christians working for God, being salt to the world.

After the refining process, we become precious metals, silver or gold.

It is said that the refiner knew the gold or silver was fully refined when he could see his reflection. May people see Jesus reflected when they look at our lives. Pure gold and silver is also easier to mold and of more worth. We must strive to be moldable in the Master's Hands and of worth in His service.

As a frequent traveler, I have reached several silver and some gold travel reward levels. The more I spend and the more I travel, the closer I get to gold status. I have thought about why God uses two precious metals in this verse. Maybe it is because as workers in God's service, some are satisfied with silver status while others strive for gold. Salt was used to separate the gold from the silver. Those who strive for gold status may "shake more salt" around the world. They are focused on soul-winning everyday, they study the scriptures more, they pray frequently, they teach and encourage others more, etc. Even though both silver and gold are precious metals in God's eyes, we should not be satisfied with silver and strive for gold.



**GOLD**



**SILVER**

### **Remembering the Reference:**

**Two** Metals (representing lost sinners saved by Grace) are dug from the ground and transformed by the transforming POWER (**X 10**) of our GOD. **2x10 = 20**

These metals must be refined so all unwanted materials are taken away. There were three methods used for refining in Bible times.

$$20 - 3 = 17$$

**17** is the chapter reference and **3** is the verse reference.

Let's start off with a few questions...

- 1) Is it a command to memorize scripture or is it something that is optional?
- 2) If we don't memorize, is it sin; which type: Sin of Commission or Sin of Omission?
- 3) Why does God want us to memorize scripture?
- 4) Why does the devil not want us to memorize scripture?

To help remember scripture, we should use God's method.

- 1) Study – II Timothy 2:15 (Laziness in this area will never receive a “Thou hast been a good and faithful servant” comment when we stand in front of the Lord.)
- 2) Review, Review, Review – Keep His Word in Front of your Eyes like the garments worn by the Jews and scriptures placed on the door posts.
- 3) Through meditation – Ponder over the application.
- 4) Through prayer – asking God to make the verse come alive.
- 5) Through songs – the devil hates God's music and God's Word – Together they are a mighty weapon!!
- 6) Through discussion and teaching others – When you encourage others, they encourage you. When you motivate others, they motivate you. When you teach others, they teach you.
- 7) Hide it in your heart so the Holy Spirit can use it as a weapon against our flesh and Satan.
- 8) Anything God commands us to do He will give us the ability to do it through His power not ours. Proverbs 14:1, Let us be wise and kick our self-defeat attitude out the door!

The devil's method for preventing scripture memorization or forgetting verses

- 1) Deceit – “You are too old” (As long as your alive, you're never too old for Satan to attack you.), “You simply can't do it”, “You don't need it”.
- 2) Cares of this world – “Don't have time to study”.
- 3) Memorizing seems too difficult, so you give up.

Song: My Bologna Has a First Name...If you count the words (include letters each as a word), there are 55 words. When the devil says a verse is too long or too hard to memorize – you say to Him – That's bologna! If we can remember the Oscar Meyer jingle, we can do this!

- 4) Lack of understanding your accountability when you stand in front of the Lord, 2 Cor. 5:10.
- 5) Carelessness, Laziness – so you are unprepared for battle, like a city with broken walls – no protection – easy prey.

Psalms 119:11 “Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

# **GOD'S METHOD FOR MEMORIZATION**

- STUDY
- DAILY REVIEW
- MEDITATION
- PRAYER
- SONGS
- DISCUSSION
- TEACHING

Let's develop the Personal Habit of Bible Memorization! It's not just a command it's good for our souls and pleases God.