

Is Your All on the Altar?

And He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering of righteousness.—Malachi 3:3

This week I keep thinking about the words of the hymn, “Is Your All on the Altar?” So often we find ourselves as the song states, longing for sweet peace. It seems like we are stressed and confused. As things go wrong, our emotions are in turmoil and we long for tranquility.

The songwriter states, “You cannot have rest or be perfectly blest until all on the altar is laid.” The verse in Malachi indicates the same thing. The LORD was purifying the sons of Levi before He would accept their offering of righteousness. They had to face the refiner’s fire to purge them of their sin.

In the chorus of the song the question is asked, “Is your all on the altar of sacrifice laid?” The altar is a place on which sacrifices are offered. A sacrifice is the act of offering God something precious. We are told in scripture that we are not to offer that which costs us nothing. It costs us something to totally commit all of our desires to God. By nature we do want to do that which pleases us. But yielding everything to God as a sacrifice for Him to control is the only way to have peace.

*Is your all on the altar of sacrifice laid?
Your heart, does the Spirit control?
You can only be blest and have peace and sweet rest,
As you yield Him your body and soul.—Elisha Hoffman*