

Seeing Through The Fire

by Thomas Keese

Although it was more than 30 years ago, I still remember distinctly our Driver's Ed. teacher's instructions about how to conquer our fear of a bridge near Comfort, Texas. Although there are few of them around anymore, this bridge was half a mile long and had two very narrow lanes framed by steel girders. His advice to us was to focus on the caution light on the other side of the bridge. It made no sense to us at the time, but when I actually took his advice, it worked.

Now I want to deal with my present circumstances. I have been dealing with excruciating pain as a result of having MS for the last 28 years and the resulting immobility. In the midst of that pain there have been very few things that will bring me comfort for my mind to dwell on. When you find yourself in the midst of this type of adversity, my advice to you is to focus on the other side of the bridge, look through the fire. One of the things I consider is to look forward to the period of time after the pain medication has taken effect. I will recite to myself Paul's words from Romans 8:18, *"the sufferings of this present world are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."*

Another passage which brings me comfort is 1 Peter 1:6-7:

"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ..."

The trial of our faith, i.e. adversity, is many times painful. We should view it as burning away those impurities in our lives that will only hinder us from reaching our goal. Those impurities in the gold must be burned away. One way to look at this when I endure this pain is that it helps me like no other experience to see more clearly the things in my life that do not matter.

[continued on page 315202](#)

315201