

Introduction

There are women all over the world at this very moment who have gone through, are going through, and will go through fiery trials that threaten their faith and everything they value. Being driven to the edge of reason is an experience that marks the soul of many women of faith at one time or another.

Where do women go when the heat's on?

What provisions has God made for the needs of His daughters?

Where does one find healing and restoration for the pain that they've experienced?

What forum provides laughter and entertainment while delivering inspiration and insight?

Among the greatest of tools that God has provided for a woman's healing and encouragement is the *Refined by Fire* book series. God ensures us that in moments of this life, we will suffer. He warns us of this because He wants us to know that the fires that surprisingly break out in our lives are not news to Him. He knows the pain that each one of us will endure in life. He's not naïve nor does He want us to be ignorant of the fact that though we are chosen for a purpose, we will endure some pain and shed a few tears. But be encouraged because all of these things work together to transform us into phenomenal vessels of honor.

God desires to dwell with us and bless us richly in all areas of our lives. He makes His bountiful inheritance available to us even at this moment, but we must continually mature in order to be found worthy of dwelling in greater dimensions of this inheritance.

Consider the beautiful butterfly. Not a single one of them have received their wings without a struggle. One would think that a butterfly was born being the lovely creatures they are. We would never imagine that a butterfly would *struggle* in order to develop the wings that make them so precious. But on the contrary, it is the very *process* of struggling to set its self free from the shadow of its former existence that defines the beautiful wings of this creature.

As a matter of fact, without the struggling process of the young butterfly breaking through the ugly shell called its *cocoon*, the butterfly will never develop her beautiful wings, nor will she grace the fields with her prancing flight.

Like the butterfly, God uses the process of life to make us beautifully mature in time. You will discover as you read this book that the process is priceless! The good times as well as the bad times all work

together to shape and mold us into vessels worthy to reign with the Father of Creation for all eternity. Our Father often allows us to struggle in our attempts to break free from the cocoons of our past in order to strengthen our faith, love, and devotion to Him. This is the path of truly phenomenal women.

In this book, *Refined by Fire: Defining Moments of Phenomenal Women*, women share some of the most critical moments of their lives. These are moments that tested every fiber of their being. These moments are those that easily break some, but these women reveal their secret treasury of tenacity, faith, and resilience in the midst of a crisis.

Some of these moments are tragic while some are miraculous. Some of the moments will make you laugh while others will make you cry. Some of them will challenge you to grow while still others will confirm your faith.

Each story may invoke different emotions in you but there are a few things that are guaranteed to those who read *Defining Moments of Phenomenal Women*.

You will be empowered to do the right thing even if you have to take a loss.

You will gain new insight into God's heart and love for you.

You will be comforted, knowing that you're not alone in your pain and struggles.

You will be healed by being able to relate to other women who have felt some of the same pains you have felt and thought some of the same doubtful thoughts you are thinking, and have crossed some of the same crossroads that you have yet to cross.

When you expect a change to come in life and it doesn't come, you can reflect on the experiences of these women to find the solace and peace you need to wait on God.

You will also find special insight and encouragement from our featured section called **A Message for Your Moment**, written by us, Anthony and Crystal Obey, in which we share inspirational messages to help you through your defining moments.

This book series is based on the powerful scripture: *That the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is refined by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.* 1 Peter 1: 7

We present to you the life and times of women of faith. Snuggle up with a soothing cup of cocoa in your favorite spot and enjoy this special collection of defining moments shared by phenomenal women.