

Pk's Perspectives ... Trust God In Everything

"I will bring that group through the fire and make them pure. I will refine them like silver and purify them like gold. They will call on my name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'These are my people,' and they will say, 'The LORD is our God.'" Zechariah 13:9

Os Hillman shared this story: "My business career has been as an owner of an advertising agency. Over the years, I've had the privilege to work on many different and prestigious accounts. One of those accounts was Steinway Pianos, the maker of the world's finest pianos. Each piano has always been made from scratch; it takes nine months or longer to carefully craft each grand or upright piano that comes out of the historic Steinway factory. Eighty percent of the production process is done by hand and completed by meticulously trained craftsmen.

"The most impressive scene as I toured the Hamburg manufacturing plant was the place where a technician oversees the bending of the rim for a new grand piano. The wood is stretched to its maximum tolerance and allowed to sit for an extended period until it remains in the curved design. This was done in an off-to-the-corner part of the plant. If the wood were alive, it would be crying out for mercy. After an extended time for stretching, the wood will never spring back to its original state. It is permanently changed.

"The many components of the piano are steadily being transformed into a fine-tuned instrument. After the stress of the wood shaping process, the stress of the tuning process is brought to bear. Between 15 to 20 tons of pressure are required to tune the piano. *(Notice the preponderance of stress throughout the entire process)* Yet each step in the process moves the piano closer to a finished product that will ultimately be played by the world's finest musicians. These musicians desire a particular sound that only a piano like this can make."

God desires to transform each of us into a fine-tuned instrument for His power and glory. Even so, we begin as inflexible wood that He sets about to shape according to His purpose for our life. Tuning us requires certain experiences that will stretch our faith, our assumptions, and our very life. When we are in the midst of these times, it feels like fire! It is painful to be stretched beyond our perceived limits, but the Lord knows this is necessary for us to become an instrument that can play a winsome song that will draw others to the cross of Jesus. Spiritual maturity issues out of suffering. When we endure this intense process of being molded into a mature disciple, we come out loving & living like Jesus and our lives become a sweet-smelling offering to our Creator.

Let the master Craftsman have His way in your life today. You will be delighted by the blueprint He has designed for your life! Grace & peace, love you. PK