



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

“DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER”

(Pressure Series, Part 8)

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November 23, 2022

Diamonds are nature’s most precious, beautiful, and popular gemstones. Made of pure carbon, they are formed under high temperature and pressure conditions that exist within a specific depth range beneath the earth’s surface making them the hardest mineral. Like a brilliant diamond, God-fearing people with strong-rooted Christian character are produced by pressures and tribulations in life (Mt. 12:33). Thus, God is making diamonds for His glory, not mine and yours.

1. How are Christian characters produced?

- 1.1 Joseph the Dreamer underwent a lot of pressure during the 13 years of waiting for his dreams to happen. Finally, God raised him and favored him to be the second in command in Egypt (Gn. 39 – 42).
- 1.2 The apostle Paul was under great pressure far beyond the ability to endure during his ministry in Asia (2 Cor. 1:8-11), but God helped him get through them (Phil. 4:13).
- 1.3 Bro. Bobby and Sis. Techie Rodriguez, Elder-founders of the Lord’s Flock Community had their share of hard trials and tribulations for more than three years. God allowed these to happen to help them become stronger, steadfast, and mature in their faith to be used for His purpose and glory (Rom. 8:28).

2. What can we hold on to when under pressure?

- 2.1 We are all but pieces of coal and with enough help from God, we can be diamonds in His kingdom.
- 2.2 God will not allow us to undergo trials that we cannot handle. He knows what He is doing every step in our life (1 Pt. 5:10-11).
- 2.3 Focus on the power of God, not on the horrible circumstances (Ps. 91:14-15).

2.4 We are all under pressure, but God controls the heat and the pressure (Jos. 1:9).

2.5 Encountering various trials should be joyful because the testing of our faith produces perseverance; perseverance produces character; and character produces hope; and hope does not put us to shame (Jas. 1:2-3; Rom. 5:3-5).

3. What is the character of a diamond versus the character of a genuine Christian?

- 3.1 Indestructible. a genuine Christian stands firm when encountering trials and persecutions (Ps. 62:6). Strong and God-fearing people are produced under pressure.
- 3.2 Unbreakable/ invincible (1 Pt. 5:10-11).
After we have suffered a little while, God will restore us and make us strong, firm, and steadfast.
- 3.3 Built under pressure (Rom. 8:38-39).
- 3.4 Real diamonds are characterized by their clarity, cut, color and carat. We should be aware of fake diamonds. God is the only flawless diamond. (Rom. 3:10).

Conclusion:

The trials we are facing now and the trials we have lived through have been allowed by God for a specific reason. He has an eternal plan that our finite minds could not possibly conceive (Jer. 29:11). We do not know the answers but we can decide to allow God to shape us according to His will and purpose (Jas. 1:2-3); to turn us into a brilliant diadem.

Reflection:

1. Are you undergoing pressure right now? How do you handle it?
2. When you encounter trials and persecutions, do you stand firm?

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Tags: #faith #perseverance #persecutions #pressure