

Do not curse your crisis because in it you are being refined

Little by little I will drive them out before you, until you have increased enough to take possession of the land. Exodus 23:30

A few years ago during the summer, my husband and I decided to go up to Sonoma County (Napa). To make use of our time there, we decided that we needed to check into a Hotel and take one of the tour packages to the wineries, instead of driving around. Our morning began with a good breakfast, and we boarded the tour bus where we were interacted with people from different parts of the United States and other countries. We learned pretty quickly that some people had come to learn how grapes are made into wine, the process they go through before the wine gets to the shelves in stores.

Some of these people on the tour bus had come to test and buy different and best types of wine Napa could offer. Some were wine collectors who traveled from country to country to collect wines from different wineries in different parts of the world and store them for years. Yet some were curious tourists who had just come to have a good time. As we went from one winery to another, one of the words said repeatedly at each presentation was "Process." The quality of good wine is determined by the process, steps and the actions that viticulturists take in choosing the soils, how the vine is treated to when the grapes are harvested. From harvest, the process continues through 4 more stages: crushing & pressing, fermentation, clarification or filtration to aging and bottling.

In life, the quality of our lives is determined not by what we go through but how we handle ourselves in our difficulties or in crises, what we do in the process and what we learn in each step. If you take advantage of the process, you come out a better person who is well equipped to handle the same experience with wisdom and courage. It is in the process you learn that you cannot overcome your circumstances; be it addiction to bad habits, poverty, joblessness or sickness without the power of God. It is in the process you discover the character of God. The process refines you, the process defines you, the process educates you, and the process informs and matures you. Pay attention to the process and all the steps from who you meet in your difficult time, what you hear and see and how you apply what you are learning.

In your difficulties today, God is making sure that you are becoming a finished product that has no bugs. God's process of quality development and testing surpasses all of the technology QA testing tools in the world today.

Ask the Lord to help you go through the entire process because if you do, chances are you will not go through the same situation again. Pray that the Lord removes your problems one at a time till you mature and transform into His likeness. God called the children of Israel out of Egypt and led them to the Promised Land. They had to go through a process to get to the land that flowed with “milk and honey.” When they got there, the Lord tells them that He will not get rid of their enemies all at once, but little by little till they increased in number.

God leads us from victory to victory little by little and helps us in getting rid of our problems as we mature. It may seem as though your process to getting what you are believing for is slow, but be rest assured that the Lord is doing a perfect Job in refining you. Wait upon Him, ask Him to reveal Himself in whatever your situation is. Ask Him to teach you in His ways through your circumstances. What you are going through is not meant to destroy you but to build you, to develop you, strengthen you and to present you to the world as a finished product that has been patient in tribulations and fire; unmoved and stable. King Nebuchadnezzar increased the temperature of the furnace for the three Hebrew boys, Daniel, Meshach and Abednego but even in that they did not get moved. They stood by and for the only God they knew. So day after day, night after night as you go through trials, tribulations and hardship, remember the Lord is with you and for you in this battle. All the while, set your eyes on the big picture, the finished product, the price of eternal life. The Lord is with you and watching over you, he will strengthen you and carry you safely