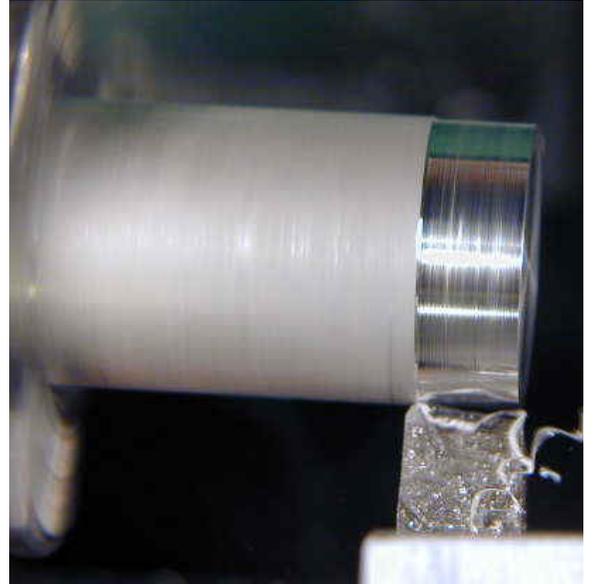


“For it became Him, FOR whom are all things, and BY whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto Glory, to make the Captain of their Salvation perfect through sufferings.” Hebrews 2:10 KJV

If steel and wood could feel, what they endure could definitely be called suffering! Machinists form exact fabrications from iron and steel using furnaces, cutting, and polishing to achieve measurements less than 1/1000th of an inch in tolerance. With today’s laser cutting technology they can cut metals like titanium to exact dimensions. All this fabrication requires removal of unnecessary metal until the finished piece fits perfectly into the design! Some metals are forged with compounds that are measured to the tiniest percentile for strength and malleability with the design and patterns of each piece predetermined before it was selected! *“We KNOW that ALL THINGS work together FOR GOOD to them that LOVE God, to*



them who are the called ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE. For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He did predestinate, them He also called: and whom He called, them He also justified: and whom He justified, them He also glorified.” God is no less exact with His work. You need only look at the human body (many have) with its billions of interactive cells, enzymes, and programmed DNA to know that God’s plans go beyond the tiniest particle! If God is that precise with the temporal world, how much more precise must He be with the eternal? Just as the fabrication of wood and metals requires unnecessary parts to be cut, melted, or ground off, God must perfect us by removing from our lives that which prevents us from being “conformed to the image” of Jesus Christ who is the epitome of perfection! Notice the condition; *“to them that LOVE God.”* If you do not LOVE God, this Promise is NOT to you! The things which cause us to seek God’s Face and succor; the things which bring us misery; and the things which bring us unwanted consequences are all “for good” and part of the design process of our perfection, IF WE LOVE GOD! *“The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the Glory which shall be revealed in us. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but He FOR OUR PROFIT, that we might be partakers of His Holiness (be like Jesus). Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable Fruit of Righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.”* Correction is unpleasant and undesired by ALL, but if we are to be perfect, suffering is a prerequisite! *“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when His Glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. It is a faithful saying: ‘For IF we be dead with Him, we shall also live with Him: IF we suffer, we shall also reign with Him: IF we deny Him, He also will deny us: IF we believe not, YET He abideth faithful: He cannot deny Himself.’”* God uses even the consequences of our sins to shape us into the perfect image of His Son! By letting us reap what we sow, He teaches us the value of faithful obedience and the Blessedness of His Word! Just think where this world, you, and I would be had God’s Word never been written!

Though trials bring despair and pain,
They are from God and for our gain,
If we trust God through thick and thin,
We’ll be forever just like Him! ~CGP

Patience is the virtue that allows us to endure chastening (shaping/molding); to learn from it never to endure it again for that reason. *“And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, Hope: And Hope maketh not ashamed; because the Love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”* Like children, believers must and will be corrected by Father through His Word. He doesn't have to lay a rod to our backs, but simply lets us reap the consequences of our own disobedience to His commands; which ARE His Blessings; they lead us to His Provision, Mercy, and Love. If you are an unbeliever, God *“commandeth ALL MEN every where TO REPENT.”* Hell is the absolute eternal consequence of unbelief! Our sufferings are almost always a consequence of our sin. God allows the disobedient believer to reap what they sow to make them *“perfect through sufferings.”* However, obedience will avoid or mitigate most all of our suffering. Remember, obedience is repentance!

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this Hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure.” 1 John 3:2-3 KJV

C. G. Palmer