



NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

"Like a mason, God often uses the trowels of health, wealth, and prosperity to improve and smooth our lives."

Trowels

It seems like every year, there is a project at my house that requires cement. This year is no exception. The curbing in front of my house needed repairing. I went to the local hardware store to buy two bags of cement mix.

While there, I overheard a conversation between a young unmarried woman and a salesman. She explained that she hired a person to make a 10 x10 cement slab. The contractor told her that she had to purchase the wheel barrel to haul the cement from the street to her backyard. The salesman asked, "Normally, the contractor provides his own wheel barrel. Is he going to make you haul it also?" She replied, "Yes." The salesman said, "There is no way that you would be able to do that. Is he going to pay you to do his hauling? I would find a different contractor." She did not purchase a wheel barrel because she could not find one that would fit in her trunk. That was the honest truth. She is really having a needless trial with her slab.

Now with my repair, I first used cement that had small stones to give it strength. I used a trowel to apply the desired shape and thickness. Then I used the trowel to semi-smooth it and remove the rough stones from the surface. Then I removed the forms and used the mix, without the stones, to fill in the missing areas and the rough surface. I again used the trowel to apply and smooth the surface. Like icing on a cake, you have to go over and over it with a trowel to get it just right.

With my poor English, I always thought the tool was spelled trial. Well, they sound the same. In doing this devotion, I even tried to Google cement trials and you can image what I got. But in a way, they both do similar things.

God often uses trials in our lives for our good. He uses them to add to our character Rom 5:3-6, develop our faith James 1:2-6, to correct our sinful paths Heb 12:5-11, to make us more dependent on Him Matt 6:11, to prepare us to help others I Cor 1:4,5, to reward us James 1:12, to fulfill His promises Rom 3:23, and to show His mighty love and works II Cor 12:9-10. If we always had great health, wealth, and prosperity, then we would not need to ask for anything nor would we need a God. Without valleys, there would not be mountain tops. Without pain, we would not know gain. Without sorrow, we would not know joy. Without tragedies, we would not be able to help others. A person I know who became blind as a teenage said that his blindness did not make him bitter but better. He went on to do a lot of amazing accomplishments including being a Pastor of a church for 40 years.

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths." Prov 3 :5-6



Like God's trials.

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"...weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." Ps 30:5



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