

He Who Began the Work Will Complete It
(I Peter 5:10; Phil. 1:6)

O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter does? Says the Lord, Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand O house of Israel (Jer. 18:6). The amazing work that the potter does to transform a piece of clay into a beautiful vase has a great significance in the spiritual realm for the believer. Humanly speaking, we are nothing but clay; and to clay we will return. The physical part, independent from the spiritual, is just that, no matter how rich, famous and beautiful we are. But the human body, in spite of being clay, is very complex; it is wonderfully made and no one can understand it completely. So it is the clay in the hands of the Creator of all living things, and of the universe, as King David expressed in Psalm 139: 13-17): for You did form my inward parts; You did knit me together in my mother's womb; I will confess and praise You for You are fearful and wonderful and for the awful wonder of my birth! Wonderful are Your works, and that my inner self knows right well; my frame was not hidden from You when I was being formed in secret and intricately and curiously wrought in the depth of the earth; Your eyes saw my unformed substance, and in Your book all the days were written before ever they took shape, when as yet there was none of them; how precious and weighty also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them! And He saw that it was good! One must feel very special in the uniqueness he/she was created.

God's work does not end with the physical part of men; in His image we are created, a difference between us and all other creations. But when sin entered the heart of men, he died spiritually. They lost the image of God, so His work on behalf of men's spiritual condition started with the gift of His Son to redeem them for Himself. YAHSHUA said, for God so loved the world that He gave His only Son for whosoever believe in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16). This Gift is available to the world collectible; but His complete work of sanctification is only for those who will receive Him; for those who have been chosen to be molded to be like His Son (Rom 8: 28-29). Suffering is very much part of the believer's life; be it physical, or by persecution or by any other meanings. Paul said, in everything gives thanks, for this is the will of God for you. This is part of your sanctification; All suffering is lining up together to accomplish God's purpose for the believer. Peter brought comfort with these words: be firm in faith, knowing that the same sufferings are appointed to your brotherhood throughout the world; and after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, Who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, will Himself **complete and make you what you ought to be, establish and ground you securely and strengthen, and settle you** (I Peter 5:9-10). He Who has begun a good work in you will complete until the day of YAHSHUA Messiah (Phil. 1:6) He will never leave the work unfinished, but He will complete it in His faithfulness and love for you. The process of molding takes a life time. "One step at the time" until He calls us home. His work of molding comes with the blessings and the purposes of establishing, securing and settling the believer in Him. The believer is the most blessed person in the world, only if he/she is surrendering his/her life to God for complete molding. Paul is a perfect example of a life complete surrendered to God's molding. As a Pharisee, he was clothed with self-righteousness and anger toward YAHSHUA and His church to the point of persecuting it. The Pharisees were

the ones who blasphemed against the Holy Spirit, committing the unpardoned sin, by saying that YAHSHUA drove out demons by the ruler of the demons (Matt. 9:34); they were the ones who plotted how to trap YAHSHUA by what He said (Matt. 22: 15). YAHSHUA described them like whitewashed tombs, which appear beautiful on the outside, but inside are full of dead men's bones and every impurity, when He pronounced the seven woes upon them (Matt. 23: 13-36). Paul was no different than those Pharisees and was just condemned as they were.

The believer suffers because he is in the hand of his Lord being molded and transformed into being a better person. He suffers because he must share YAHSHUA's suffering if we are to share His glory (Rom. 8:17). There is always room in the Potter's house for the believer; it is a place where we are transformed into beautiful vessel that will bring glory to the Potter. We walk in broken and dirty, and leave the place cleaned and sanctified. The pain of molding lasts only for a while; with it we receive grace and mercy from our Lord. The Holy Spirit is the master Potter of our soul; He makes us worthy to enter the presence of God, as He enters it with us and prays for us and with us. He makes us acceptable to God, as He breaks our ugly shell and molds it into the conformity of the holiness of God's Son. Outside the working of salvation and sanctification, we are just clay, destined to die eternally; but saved and sanctified, we are made complete and in the process of being made beautiful sanctuary for the Holy Spirit to abide. Sanctuary from where His glory will shine through brighter and brighter in every degree of glory. When the molding is too painful to bear, get closer to Him; let Him finish His work in you, for the work of YAHSHUA on the cross must be completed in you. There is no glory without the crown of thorns; every thorn that pierced the head of our Savior was for the purpose of transforming the mind of the believer; the cross is now ours to bear, forsaking the world and its pleasure to conform to YAHSHUA'S suffering, to inherit His salvation. He Who began a good work in you, will certainly finish in His time. Do you believe it?

THINK ABOUT IT!