



Relationship w/Jesus

ARTICLE

Tried & True

intentional

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Yesterday I was cleaning my new van. Well, new to me. I bought it, used, from a hunter/fisherman who was obviously dedicated to both events. I can just picture his buddies going with him on these outings because of the mud that was caked all over the carpet. I knew this when I bought it, however, I didn't realize the job this harmless mess entailed.

I used a carpet shampooer over it several times, and then I realized that I would need something more substantial. So I got a big bucket of hot soapy water and commenced to scrubbing by hand until the heavy load of it was mostly gone. . . So I thought.

Then I went over it with my shampooer again and worked the details out. What I thought would be a two hour job ended up to be a six hour job and I was thoroughly exhausted when I finished.

Towards the end of my endeavor I was thinking to the Lord; Lord, I don't have the stamina to get all of the dirt out. It looks clean and yet when I pass by with the scrubber I see a fresh batch of dirt coming up. I stopped and realized this dirt is deep down inside the carpet and would take a series of treatments, probably taking months of work before it is all gone.

Then that still small voice from Jesus spoke to me and said; "Like the dirt in the carpet so is the dirt in your life. You weren't perfect when you were baptized nor when you received the Holy Ghost. But through a series of trials you lose some of those imperfections that might hinder your relationship with Me, one at a time. It takes time to obtain."

Then I began thinking about the gold, when it is tried in the fire, the imperfections come to the top to be skimmed off. Eventually, the gold becomes more pure than before.

"But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." Job 23:10

So when the time comes to be tested and tried through troubles and trials, work it out as the Lord will give you the strength to overcome. This is growth; becoming a mature Christian. Allow the Lord to take you through the troubles and not around them. If you fail, or stop the test, the Lord will try you again, if you let Him.

"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." 1 John 4:4

Thank You Jesus!

