

# Handle pressure

7 March 2010 – Practical Christian living service  
Pressured yet Persuaded

**2Co 12:7** So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.**8** Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me.**9** But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.**10** For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

For many years I have thought of pressure on us as something to be handled. When there is pressure there is some mystical powerful formula that we can use to have the pressure removed. A secret way of handling pressure. Standing up against the pressure, dominating it. Pressure should only be placed over non-believers, anyway. As we stand as believers, I thought pressure will become less and doing things will be accompanied by less pressure than when we were non-believers.

## 1. Branding

- 1.1. Any high quality product has a branding.
  - a) Branding is normally in either the logo or name of the company that made it.
  - b) When a Caterpillar is branded all of the world knows the creator of the shoe and the standard by which it was made.
  - c) A branding is made on the shoe by "PRESSURE" and HEAT.
- 1.2. It is an honour for the shoe to be branded by the name of the creator.
  - a) We display the branding of clothes with pride.
  - b) It reflects a high standard.
  - c) It speaks to the value of the item

## 2. You are branded

- 2.1. When God tests and pressures us
  - a) You are branded with His name.
  - b) Revealing His standard of things. All the things that does not look like Him is removed and destroyed. Only that which is of His High standard is acceptable.
- 2.2. Within the test (pressure) there is acknowledgment.
  - a) The King only places His branding on His own.
  - b) It is an honor to be branded by Him
  - c) All that see the branding will understand the value of the branded one.
  - d) He disciplines those He loves.
- 2.3. Pressure caused by our choices.
  - a) Pressure we cause because of disobedience is not included
  - b) We can cause our own challenges and a lot of pressure.
  - c) When we believers are disobedient and come under pressure there is NO glory in it.
  - d) 1 Pet 4:14-15 – Do not suffer for being wrong.... but for His name sake.
- 2.4. God tends to brand us
  - a) He writes His name on our Hearts.
  - b) He refuse to let you be anything accept "Him"
  - c) Our standards is not His standards.
  - d) **Change, when you are under pressure!**

### Things to think and do

- Has God branded you?
- Have you allowed God to imprint Himself on you, or are you trying to handle the pressure?