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THE DARKROOM

I got my first camera when I was quite young. I enjoyed taking pictures, but then they had to be developed. Some rolls of film sat a while because it was cheaper to buy the film than it was to have it developed.

Some friends learned how to “develop” their own film by building a darkroom. The negatives were on a roll, and they were treated in a special fluid in a room that had no outside light. Only a red light was used because it allowed those developing the film to control the light properly so they would not get over exposed. If a door opened before the film was properly developed and outside light came in before the film was fully developed, it would ruin the pictures.

Often God takes us to that “darkroom.” It is a place where we cannot be overexposed to the bright light of the world. We are put through the process of changing our “negatives” of life into something that is positive. It may be a lengthy process for some, or it might be a short process. Whichever it is, we do know that God is working on us.

During this time of development, we must yield to the “developer’s” hand in order to fulfill our destiny. We can’t rush this process, or we will destroy what the developer is trying to do with us. It takes the skilled hand of God to develop us from negative to positive. We cannot do this on our own. We often try to “develop” ourselves but fail because we aren’t skilled enough to bring ourselves through the process.

There are various stages of development. I would say the first stage is the womb, where like the film in the camera, it produces a picture. It must then be taken from the camera, or womb and be a person. But this person will be influenced by the one that oversees it. There will be other pictures in their roll (life). Some of those pictures may be flawed or blurred because the camera that took the picture moved when it should have stayed still. Those pictures are the parts of our life that represented our failures. Some keep these pictures, but they are of little value other than we learn or not learn from these mistakes which are called sin.

Then comes the process of development. To develop into the life God wants for us, we must first realize that one, like the film, must submit itself to the developer to be changed. This would be where one comes to God through salvation. Then is where we are taken into the darkroom. We might not understand the darkness in our life, but God is working the negative things out in that room. If we yield to his hand, we will become fully developed or processed. We can’t let the influence of the world come into that room or it will either slow the procedure or it will destroy our lives. But unlike the film, when overexposed, that becomes of no value, the developer sees beyond our failures.

Yes, something is different between us and the film and the film’s darkroom. We may be overexposed to the world, but God allows us to be brought back to our original state when we

repent. Unlike that film that is overexposed and is of no value, God sees the value in us and paid the price for us to be viable again. Praise God we aren't like that film because we are given a second, third, fourth and many more chances to develop into what God planned for us. We may have to go back into that darkroom many times, but there is always hope for those of us that missed it the first time.