



A DIAMOND IS A PIECE OF COAL THAT STUCK TO THE JOB.



A DIAMOND IS CARBON THAT ENDURED IMMENSE PRESSURE & HEAT FOR A LONG TIME WITHOUT LOSING ITS STRUCTURE.



UNDER PRESSURE, IN THE FIRE

Romans 5:3-5, 1st Peter 1:3-7



UNDER PRESSURE

Romans 5:3-5

The **idea** of **pressure**...

- The word **tribulation** here literally means **pressure, squeezing, compression.**
- It means **to crush!**
- Why would God want to **crush us?**

A close-up photograph of a person's hands using a manual citrus juicer. The juicer is white with a black base and a silver-colored metal strainer. A hand is shown squeezing a yellow lemon against the strainer, while another hand supports the base of the juicer. The background is dark and out of focus. Overlaid on the image is text in white and yellow.

**CRUSHING SEPARATES THE
JUICE FROM THE SKIN, THE
SEEDS AND THE PULP.**

CRUSHING SEPARATES OUR CHARACTER...
REMOVING BAD CHARACTERISTICS, AND
RETAINING GOOD CHARACTERISTICS.

CRUSHING PRODUCES PERSEVERANCE.



IN THE FIRE

1st Peter 1:3-7

The **idea** of **fire**...

- Fire **consumes** or **purifies**.
- Fire **reveals** what is **true**!
- Fire reveals **your character**.
- There are some things **you can fake**... and **some things you can't fake**.
- You **can't fake character**.



UNDER PRESSURE

Romans 5:3-5

People many times...
apply **pressure/fire!**

- Saul: 1st Samuel 13:5-13
- Aaron: Exodus 32:1-4, 21-24
- Peter: Luke 22:54-62
- Job: Job 2:9
- Work, school, family, church!



UNDER PRESSURE

Romans 5:3-5

Circumstances many times
apply **pressure/fire!**

- Financial problems (Job), unexpected bills
- Health problems (Job)
- A flat tire, a computer issue
- Loneliness, depression
- “You name it” problems!

SOMETIMES WE HAVE A **PROBLEM** WITH OUR **EXPECTATIONS.**

“Beloved, **do not be surprised** at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though **some strange thing were happening to you.**”

1st Peter 4:12



UNDER PRESSURE

Romans 5:3-5

We **wrestle** with the
pressure **in our mind!**

Then Moses said, “**What if**
they will not believe me or
listen to what I say? For
they may say, ‘*The Lord
has not appeared to you.*’”
(Exodus 4:1)

A white egg is being squeezed by a dark metal vise. A crack runs across the middle of the egg. The background is dark.

UNDER PRESSURE

Romans 5:3-5

But **we can attain** to a faith
that **no longer wrestles...**

“We do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter. If it be so, **our God whom we serve is able to deliver us** from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But **even if He does not**, let it be known to you...” (*Daniel 3:16-18*)



Years ago, I took my kids to
get some doughnuts...

*“Therefore, **do not throw
away your confidence**, which
has a great reward. For you
have need of endurance, so
that when you have done the
will of God, you may receive
what was promised.”*
(Hebrews 10:35-36)



UNDER PRESSURE

Romans 5:3-5

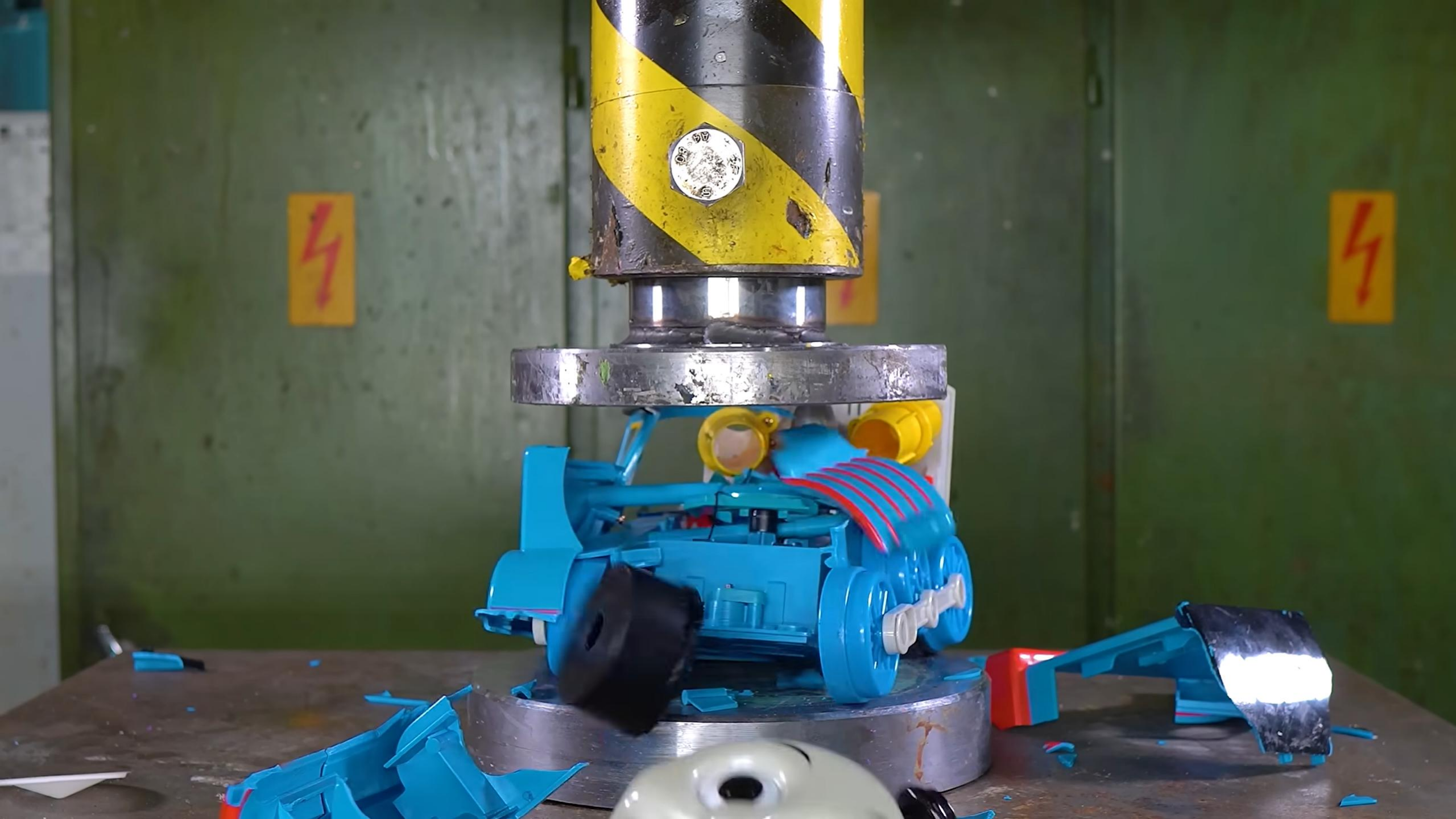
Sometimes, **the pressure** of life is that **there is no pressure!**

- The example of Hezekiah in 2nd Chronicles 32:31
- A time of **testing!**
- A time of **rest** and **riches!** (verses 27-29)
- A time of **pride!** (v 25, Isa. 39)

**WITHOUT GOD, LIFE
CAN SIMPLY CRUSH YOU.**







A hydraulic press is shown in the process of crushing blue plastic components. The press's vertical column is silver and features a yellow and black diagonal hazard stripe. It sits on a thick metal base. The surrounding area is a dark workbench covered with numerous fragments of the crushed plastic. In the background, a green wall has two yellow rectangular labels, each with a red lightning bolt symbol.

**THIS IS YOU,
WITHOUT GOD.**

**WITH GOD, THE PRESSURES AND
FIRES OF LIFE WILL FORGE YOU
INTO A STRONG SERVANT OF
CHRIST WITH GREAT ENDURANCE.**

**“WE ARE NOT OF THOSE WHO SHRINK BACK
TO DESTRUCTION, BUT OF THOSE WHO HAVE
FAITH TO THE PRESERVING OF THE SOUL.”**

Hebrews 10:39