

## God The Master Polisher

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### Kobayashi The Master Polisher

Kobayashi (aged 72) is one of the rare breed of master polishers in Japan who can polish any object to a 1,000th of a unit. He first started as an apprentice polisher because he thought it was the easiest job in his factory. One day he overheard a conversation between some workers during lunch that a polisher's work was the lowest job in the industry. He was shocked and became very discouraged.

When he set up his own tiny backyard factory to do polishing work, he decided he wanted to be the best polisher he could be. So he began to accept all the polishing work that other polishers rejected either because they were odd objects, hence difficult to polish; or because they were 'small' jobs. Through the years Mr. Kobayashi began to develop such a rare skill that he could polish any object (ranging from rare art carvings, high class cups, wheel rims to delicate medical instruments to be inserted into patients). His big break came when iPod was looking for a master polisher who can polish the glossy iPod to the nearest millimetre required. Kobayashi was awarded the entire contract.

Like Kobayashi, God is our 'master polisher'. He is constantly 'polishing' or refining our lives to be the man or woman He wants us to be. The objects handed to Kobayashi for polishing have one thing in common: they are all 'unfinished' products because they all have rough edges. The master polisher's job is to polish them until their surfaces are glossy and smooth. To do that, the polisher must be very careful in knowing how deep to polish. Too deep, it would destroy the metal object (meant for its original purpose). Too superficial, it would not be smooth and glossy. The customer would reject it. It takes a master polisher to have that perfect touch.

### God The Master Polisher

God, too, is like that 'master polisher'. He has the perfect touch. We all have "rough edges" that need to be 'polished' and smoothened. Being the 'master craftsman', God does not 'cut too deep' (otherwise it would destroy us) nor does He cut too superficially, (otherwise we would not be the person God wants us to be). This is a life-long process.

We are all "unfinished products". We need God to "polish" the "rough edges" of our lives. What are the "rough edges" in your life that need to be polished so that we can become the man or woman God wants us to be?

Some of the "rough edges" in our life are described in the Bible as "work of the flesh" (Galatians 5: 19-20). The outcome that we look for after God has "polished" our life is found in the "fruit of the spirit" in Galatians 5: 22-23. So we want God to remove the "sinful nature" in us so that He may replace them with the "fruit of the spirit". The "work of the flesh" represents our life before God "polish" our life. The "fruit of the Holy Spirit" represents our life after God has "polished" our life to be the man or woman God wants us to be.

Work of Flesh (sinful nature) (Before God "polish" our life)	Fruit of Holy Spirit (After God "polished" our life)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sexual immorality</li> <li>▪ Impurity (impure thoughts)</li> <li>▪ Sensuality (debauchery)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- lustful pleasure</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Idolatry</li> <li>▪ Socery/ witchcraft               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- participating in demonic activities</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Hatred (enmity, hostility)</li> <li>▪ Quarrelling (discord, strife)</li> <li>▪ Jealousy (envy)</li> <li>▪ Outburst of anger (fits of rage)</li> <li>▪ Selfish ambition</li> <li>▪ Divisions (factions, dissensions)</li> <li>▪ Drunkenness</li> <li>▪ Orgies</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">(Galatians 5: 19-20)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Love</li> <li>▪ Joy</li> <li>▪ Peace</li> <li>▪ Patience</li> <li>▪ Kindness</li> <li>▪ Goodness</li> <li>▪ Faithfulness</li> <li>▪ Gentleness</li> <li>▪ Self-control</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">(9 fruit of Holy Spirit)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Galatians 5: 22-23)</p>

So from a person who is quarrelsome, jealous or envious of others, God can make you to be a loving, caring and kind person, doing good for others (instead of selfish ambition). From a person who is prone to outburst of anger, God can change us and give us a spirit of gentleness and self-control. Or if you are addicted or hooked onto pornography or drugs, only God can give you the strength to put an end to your addiction. The list goes on.

How does God turn our sinful nature (work of the flesh) into "fruit of the spirit"? This is when we surrender our life to God, we become a "new creature" in Christ Jesus (2 Cor 5:17)