

Failure

A Two-Minute Thought by Eric

As I was bending the 12,000th (or so) nail, my needle nose pliers broke. Yes, my Craftsman 8" Needle Nose Pliers broke! Apparently the tip had finally succumbed to the torture known as "The Top Loops" and it simply broke off.

My first thought was, "Uh oh. How am I going to complete my orders on time?". It was 9:00ish at night and Sears was not open, so I was a bit anxious that I was going to lose a solid 2 hours of work.

My second thought was, "When will I be able to get to Sears to buy new ones?". I had commitments at church the next day and worked on the opposite end of town from Sears during the week. I was growing a bit more concerned.

My third thought was, "Wait a minute! These are Craftsman! They have a lifetime guarantee!". At first I was a little disappointed that something that was guaranteed actually broke. But then my fourth thought was, "They'll replace these for free!". Yes, a happy thought. :)

After the dust had settled from this little debacle, a "life's lesson" was being written and I didn't even know it until now.

These poor pliers had bent nearly 12,000 nails and then failed. They did so much good before reaching that breaking point. And while I obsessed about "what am I going to do now?", there was a bigger lesson to be learned.

I focused on the failure of the tool and ignored what it had fulfilled. What if God did that with us? What if He focused on our failures, sins, and shortcomings and withheld Himself until we were perfect? We should thank Him that He doesn't. The truth is that He can and will use us as we are while helping us along the way. He doesn't call us to be perfect in order to help impel His kingdom. He simply wants us to be obedient.

We may be doing everything we can to fulfill His kingdom, but sometimes we fail. That happens. But through God's grace and mercy, we can renew and repair ourselves in Him in those times and keep going. That is His guarantee. The pliers successfully bent 12,000 nails and only failed once. Craftsman's guarantee is for a lifetime.

God's guarantee is forever.