

The Problem-Solver

by Mike Tucker *

Charlie Steinmetz described himself as an ugly, deformed immigrant blessed with an “electronic” mind.

Steinmetz built the electrical generators for Henry Ford’s first plant in Dearborn, Michigan. One day those generators failed to function, and production in the plant came to a halt. Ordinary mechanics and electricians were brought in to assess the problem. Unfortunately, they were unable to get the generators going, and Henry Ford was losing money.

Desperate to resume production, Ford called Steinmetz. The genius arrived and seemed to just tinker around. He would tinker with one part, then move to another. Ford’s employees stood in disbelief at the incompetence of this unusual-looking man. After a few hours of tinkering, Steinmetz threw the main generator switch, and instantly power was revived.

Returning home, Steinmetz forwarded a bill to Henry Ford for \$10,000. Although a very rich man, Ford considered the amount outrageous and returned it to Steinmetz with this note: “Charlie, isn’t this a little steep for a few hours of tinkering?”

Steinmetz reworked the bill and sent it back to Ford. This time the bill read: “\$10 for tinkering around; \$9,990 for knowing where to tinker. Total = \$10,000.”

Henry Ford paid the bill.

The designer of the power plant obviously knew just where to tinker!

When things go wrong in my life, I am often frustrated and confused. But when I finally remember to consult the “Designer”, things tend to turn around in a hurry.

The Psalmist seemed to understand this. David understood that the One who made him was the One who alone would direct him to Heaven.

1 *O Lord, you have searched me and known me!*

2 *You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar....*

14 *I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well....*

23 *Search me, O God, and know my heart!
Try me and know my thoughts!*

24 *And see if there be any grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting!*
Psalm 139

When you face a problem too big for you to solve, consult the Designer. He is the true
“Problem-Solver”.

With Love,
Mike

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