

Dee Mail

What Are My Options?



Dear Ladies,

6/16/2010

I was ecstatic when James said to me, “Go pick out the baby grand piano you want, and I’ll buy it for your Christmas present.” For years I had dreamed of owning a baby grand piano. I often window shopped at piano show rooms. I mentally rearranged the furniture in my small living room a million times. Do I have room for a baby grand piano?

In December 2005, the long awaited desire of my heart arrived. Delivery men set up my new baby grand piano as the main focal point of my living room. After they whisked away my old console-spinet, I lovingly cleaned every speck of dust from the shiny black finish of my new piano. Suddenly, I saw something horrifying and sickening—a long scratch in the beautiful finish on my new treasure. Disappointment and fear arose in my heart. Would the piano company replace it? Have I spent thousands of dollars for a damaged musical instrument?

A fellow missionary once told me the way we respond to a problem is more important than the problem itself. After much thought and prayer for favor, I placed the dreaded call to the salesman. Hiding all indicators of fear, I kindly told him about the flaw and then asked, “What are my options?” I specifically avoided words or tone of voice that could be mistaken as confrontational. Guess what? The salesman responded with kindness to me. He replied, “Oh, Mrs. Fields. That was a new piano you bought. We’ll make it good for you.” He kept his word, and I smile every time I dust my beautiful unscratched piano.

Advice from the book of Proverbs helps us react to unpleasant assignments: “Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones” (16:24). “A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control” (29:11).

I hope you can someday use the question, “What are my options?” to help you preserve a good business relationship and avoid a potentially ugly showdown. Remember, God is on your side and longs to show his daughters special favor during a difficult turn of events.

Thankful for the option of having you in my life,

Delores

Prayer: Lord, thank you for the fruit of your Holy Spirit. May we choose to be pleasing to You, even when it’s difficult to express self-control and kindness. Reward these special women with your generous favor. Shield them from fear and infuse them with your courage to keep their words sweet and pleasant. Amen.

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