

**“What good are problems?” Pt. 2
Psa. 119:71,72**

Big Idea - God is far more interested in your character than your comfort.

“My troubles turned out all for the best—they forced me to learn from your decrees. Truth from your mouth means more to me than striking it rich in a gold mine.” Psalm 119:71-72

Paul said in Romans 8:28 that God is working all things together for good to those who love Him...

He’s not done yet! Bill Gaither song “He’s still working on me, to make me what I ought to be...”

Philippians 1:6 “I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.”

God wants to use the problems, the tests, the troubles in your life to:

Show you are His child

Hebrews 12:6 - 8 God scourges “every son”...”all are partakers”

Matthew 13:20, 21

Romans 8:35 – 39 says nothing can separate us from the love of Christ

2 Corinthians 6:4 “But in every way we show we are servants of God: in accepting many hard things, in troubles, in difficulties, and in great problems.”

Test you

People are like teabags ... if you want to know what's inside them, just drop them into hot water! Has God ever tested your faith with a problem?

What do problems reveal about you?

Teach you

Psalm 119:67 "Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word.
71 It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.

Sometimes we only learn the value of something – health, money, a relationship - by losing it.

Protect you

A problem can be a blessing in disguise if it prevents you from being harmed by something more serious. I read about a man who was fired for refusing to do something unethical that his boss asked him to do. His unemployment was a problem - but it saved him from being convicted and sent to prison a year later when his boss' actions were uncovered.

Perfect you.

James 1:2 "My brothers and sisters, when you have many kinds of troubles, you should be full of joy, (Matthew 5:12, 13)

3 For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.

4 So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

What is a perfect person? Biblically, "perfect" means "mature, grown up"

Ephesians 4:12 "Christ gave those gifts to prepare God's holy people for the work of serving, to make the body of Christ stronger.

13 This work must continue until we are all joined together in the same faith and in the same knowledge of the Son of God. We must become like a mature person, growing until we become like Christ and have his perfection."

"We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us—they help us learn to be patient (to have endurance)

And patience/endurance develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time we use it until finally our hope and faith are strong and steady." Romans 5:3-4

Like a muscle you have to use it to make it stronger!!

Problems, when responded to correctly, are character builders. God is far more interested in your character than your comfort.

Help you trust the Lord better and pray more!

Romans 8:26 "...in the same way—by our faith—the Holy Spirit helps us with our daily problems and in our praying. For we don't even know what we should pray for nor how to pray as we should, but the Holy Spirit prays for us with such feeling that it cannot be expressed in words."

Galatians 6:2 "Share each other's troubles and problems, and so obey our Lord's command.

3 If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important."

James 5:16 "Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results."

Proverbs 3:5 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding."

Psalms 37:5 "Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass."

1 Peter 5:7 "...casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because the devil, your enemy, goes around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

9 Resist him, by standing strong in your faith. You know that your Christian family all over the world is having the same kinds of suffering."

Satan does not care how much you work, he cares how much you pray!

Ephesians 6:18 "Pray in the Spirit at all times with all kinds of prayers, asking for everything you need. To do this you must always be ready and never give up. Always pray for all God's people."

Ephesians 6:17b "God's Word is an indispensable weapon.

18 In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out." (The Message)

This improves your perspective, helps you see things God's way

1 Peter 5:10 And after you suffer for a *short time, God, who gives all grace, will make everything right. He will perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. He called you to share in his glory in Christ, a glory that will continue forever.

2 Corinthians 4:17 "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,"