

Problems are – 2

Problems are...

Reminders, Obstacles, Blessings, Lessons, Everywhere,
Messages, Solvable

Life is full of problems

They can cause us to shrink back in fear and bury our talent
When a problem comes our way the way we face it
determines the outcome

When we face a problem we must direct our thought life
Our thought life will dictate the outcome
– Spiritual Warfare

There are character traits that will help us in managing a
problem

- If I lose *perspective* I'll believe the wrong things
- If I have the wrong *priorities* I'll do the wrong things
- If I lose the *path* I'll live for the wrong things

We must develop these traits in our lives

- Passion, Patience Peace, Persistence

Passion tells me how I should feel

Romans 12:11

11 Never lag in zeal and in earnest endeavor; be aglow and
burning with the Spirit, serving the Lord. AMP

- We can enjoy many things
- We can only be passionate about a few
- Make sure you are passionate about the right things

Patience tells me how I should act

James 1:4 **Patience**

4 So let **it** grow, and don't try to squirm out of your problems. For when your patience is finally in full bloom, then you will be ready for anything, strong in character, full and complete. TLB

- The truth is that God wants me complete
- Do I have the persistence I need to see things through?
- Maturity is facing the problem head on
- Accepting responsibility
- Determination to finish the race

Peace tells me how I should think

Philippians 4:7

7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. NIV

- Without peace my mind will not relax
- Without the right information my heart will lead me in the wrong direction
- What am I thinking on? – **Philippians 4:6, 8-9**

Persistence tells me how I should grow

Hebrews 12:1-2

1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. NKJV

- Am I sold out to my purpose?
- Is my passion the thing that God is passionate about
- When the vision comes from Him He will help me see it clearly through to the end

Hebrews 5:8

8 though He was a Son, yet He learned **obedience** by the things which He suffered. NKJV

- Obedience – **Submission** to Gods will

Each of these character traits is critical to the effectiveness of our life

Passion helps us handle the pressures of life

Acts 20:22-24

22 "And now I am going to Jerusalem, drawn there irresistibly by the Holy Spirit, not knowing what awaits me, 23 except that the Holy Spirit has told me in city after city that jail and suffering lie ahead. 24 But life is worth nothing **unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord** Jesus-the work of telling others the Good News about God's mighty kindness and love. TLB

- Would I know if the Holy Spirit was drawing me?
- To an area that promised hardship?
- Would I have the attitude that Paul did?
- My life is worthless unless it is being spent for God's glory

Patience helps us handle the people in our life

Colossians 1:11-12

11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

NKJV

- Only the Power of God can give us love for those who challenge or abuse us
- Sometimes we can be hurt by those we love
- Remember it is Christ who qualifies us
- Forgive and apply patience

Peace helps us handle the problems in life

Mark 5:38-39

38 Then He came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and saw a tumult and those who wept and wailed loudly. 39 When He came in, He said to them, "Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping." NKJV

Persistence helps us handle the pain in life

Hebrews 10:39

39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul. NKJV

- We must understand that the things we are facing are the things that can destroy or define us
- When we give a purpose to our problems we can be assured to have God results
- God results lead to a God filled life
- A God filled life produces kingdom fruit

2 Corinthians 4:16

16 Therefore we do not become discouraged (utterly spiritless, exhausted, and wearied out through fear). Though our outer man is [progressively] decaying and wasting away, yet our inner self is being [progressively] renewed day after day. AMP

- In the trial allow the Spirit of God renew your inner man
- You will be strong and full of peace
- Your problem will no longer be the focus in your life
- The Kingdom is released!

When you live with passion your problem becomes an opportunity for Blessings

2 disciples on the road to Emmaus

Luke 24:17-19 NKJV

17 And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?"

18 Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?" 19 And He said to them, "What things?"

- The disciples are focusing on Jesus' death
- He shows them what the word says about His suffering and death
- They had forgotten the prophecy of the Resurrection

Luke 24:25-27

25 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. NKJV

- When we face a problem the word of God will give purpose to it
- The word is more real than our circumstance

Luke 24:32

32 And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?" NKJV

- When we know the Savior His truth burns on the inside of us – Passion
- Take a spiritual inventory
- What kind of fruit am I bearing?

Revelation 3:15

15 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. NKJV

- Lukewarm living emphasizes our problem
- Passionate living emphasizes our purpose
- Joash – 2 Kings 13:14-19 (Strike the ground)

Watch for the symptoms of a passion deficit

1 Kings 19:10

10 So he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life." NKJV

- Blaming others for your unhappiness
- The feeling that something is missing
- Depression or anger
- The idea that something is out of sync
- Doubting your abilities

Look for these signs of passion – Stir it up!

Philippians 3:13-14

13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. NKJV

- Forget the past problems
- Face the problems of today with purpose
- Reach for something bigger than you
- Risk more than is reasonable
- Live without an exit strategy

Live up to your potential, not down to your problems

Hebrews 12:1

1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. NKJV

- Life wants to limit your potential and kill your passion
- Stay away from people who feel it's their job to put out your fire
- Surround yourself with people who fan the flame
- Passion is up-close and personal

Psalms 39:3

3 My heart was hot within me; while I was musing, the fire burned. Then I spoke with my tongue: NKJV

- The presence of God creates a fire for God
- Don't let knowledge of God be a substitute for the fire of God
- "Catch on fire with enthusiasm and people will come for miles to watch you burn"
– John Wesley

Watch out for these deterrents of passion

Fear - I don't try

2 Timothy 1:7

7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. NKJV

Doubt - I don't act

James 2:26

26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. NKJV

Procrastination - I don't have time

Proverbs 13:12

12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick,
But when the desire comes, it is a tree of life. NKJV

Stir yourself up – Passion

Isaiah 55:1-3

1 "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
And you who have no money, come, buy and eat.
Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without
price. 2 Why do you spend money for what is not bread,
And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully
to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself
in abundance. 3 Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear,
and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting
covenant with you — The sure mercies of David. NKJV

- I can like a lot of things but can be only be passionate about a few
- Don't confuse excitement for passion
- Don't just go through the motions, get in the race
- Don't just start, but finish

Remember this. When people choose to withdraw far from a fire, the fire continues to give warmth, but they grow cold. When people choose to withdraw far from light, the light continues to be bright in itself but they are in darkness. This is also the case when people withdraw from God. ~Augustine

2 Timothy 1:6

6 This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. NLT