

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

Patience tells me how I should act

Peace tells me how I should think

Persistence tells me how I should grow

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

Passion helps us handle the pressures of life

Acts 20:24

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

- 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

- He understands and gives mercy – **Hebrews 4:14-16**

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 let problems have a purpose 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

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

Here is a man that has done many signs and wonders

Commands the rain to stop and it stops

Commands it to rain and it starts

Stirred up with such passion and confidence he tells his servant to look toward the sea for the rain – seven times

One attack can cause him to shrink back and want to quit

1 Kings 19:1-9

1 And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword. 2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time." 3 And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.

4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, LORD, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!"

5 Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat." 6 Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again.

7 And the angel of the LORD came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you." 8 So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.

9 And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" NKJV

Still, Small Voice

1 Kings 19:11-13 NKJV

11 Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. 13 So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

- The Lord assures him there are 7000 allies

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

Psalm 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

- You always have the time with God

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