

Problems are – 4

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 helps us handle the pressures of life

Patience helps us handle the people in our life

Peace helps us handle the problems in life

Persistence helps us handle the pain in life

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

Jeremiah 23:29 NKJV

9 "Is not My word like a fire?" says the LORD,
"And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"

- 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
- But His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones – **Jeremiah 20:9**

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 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. NKJV

The Bible says we need patience

James 1:2-4

2 Dear brothers, is your life full of difficulties and temptations? Then be happy, 3 for when the way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow. 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

- Unexpected changes
- Relationship irritations
- Perfectionist tendencies
- Schedule interruptions
- Inconsiderate people

Patience helps us so we don't lose it

Luke 21:19

19 By your patience possess your souls. NKJV

- Lose our perspective
- Lose our cool
- Lose our values

We need to recognize the main ways we become impatient

Daniel 10:1

1 The message was true, but the appointed time was long; and he understood the message, and had understanding of the vision. NKJV

- It's hard to have patience without a vision
- What is my life meant for?
- To turn a problem into a purpose you must have a vision
- It will have to develop

Proverbs 29:18

18 Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint
NKJV

Watch for times when you become impatient with God

Habakkuk 2:2-3

2 Write my answer in large, clear letters on a tablet, so that a runner can read it and tell everyone else. 3 But these things I plan won't happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed. NLT

- It will take place
- God hasn't forgotten
- The plan won't happen right away
- He knows that or Character will help bring it to pass

Remember He doesn't work for you

Job 40:8

8 Would you say that I am unfair? Would you blame me to make yourself look right?) NCV (new century version)

- How many times have I blamed God?
- How many times have I insisted that I know better?
- Am I concerned with looking right?
- Am I more concerned with being better
- Am I concerned with being right with God?

Remember my time and God's time are not the same

2 Peter 3:8

8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. NKJV

- God is not bound by time
- He doesn't mind waiting
- He's concerned with the outcome not the timeline

2 Peter 3:9

9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. NKJV

- God's purpose is bigger than my problem
- Remember God knows more than I do

Isaiah 46:10

10 Only I can tell you what is going to happen even before it happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish. NLT

- KJV- The end from the beginning
- God already has the answer
- God already has the plan
- You don't get to do whatever you want – God does!

Proverbs 16:9

9 A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps. NKJV

- Start with God's plan and there are fewer steps

Watch for times when you become impatient with yourself
Ecclesiastes 7:8 NKJV

8 The end of a thing is better than its beginning;
The patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

- Pride will always cause you to become impatient with yourself and others
- Patience will allow you to see yourself from God's perspective

Realize...

I don't have to do everything right the first time
Proverbs 24:16

16 For a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again,
But the wicked shall fall by calamity. NKJV

- The righteous know how to get back up
- Don't kick yourself when you're down
- Don't allow a mistake to keep you down

Proverbs 17:22

22 A merry heart does good, like medicine,
But a broken spirit dries the bones. NKJV

- Don't be a strength sucker
- Be a healing stream

Psalms 65:9, 11

9 The river of God is full of water;
11 And Your paths drip with abundance.
NKJV

I even fail at things I thought I did right

Romans 7:19

19 For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. NKJV

- We must have grace towards ourselves
- We will make mistakes
- Learn from the mistake and move on

Watch for times when you're impatient with others

James 3:2

2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. NKJV

- Our tongue will get us in trouble with others
- When we control our tongue we are exercising patience
- People matter

Proverbs 12:18

18 There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, But the tongue of the wise promotes health. NKJV

- Are my words wounding or healing?
- When we focus on the problem our words can hurt
- When we focus on the purpose our words bring life

Proverbs 10:12

12 Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins. NKJV

- If I walk in love I will be forgiving
- I can overlook an offense

Proverbs 10:19

19 In the multitude of words sin is not lacking,
But he who restrains his lips is wise. NKJV

- It is possible to talk too much
- Hold your tongue, pray and wait
- If all you talk about is your problem you have not found the purpose in it
- You can only find the purpose from Him

Colossians 1:11

11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; NKJV

- Joy is a key to giving purpose to your problem
- The problem is just a problem
- The problem is not your identity
- Don't let the situation control you
- His glorious power is what you need
- Grow patience by being with Jesus
- Grow patience by talking with Jesus
- Grow patience by caring like Jesus

Acts 4:13

13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus . NKJV