

Problems are – 6

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

Stir yourself up – Passion

No Slide: 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. 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

The Bible says we need – Patience (Last week)

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

- 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
- Believe, Speak and Receive the inheritance

Why does it seem like there is never a moment of peace?

### 2 Chronicles 15:4-5

5 And in those times there was no peace to the one who went out, nor to the one who came in, but great turmoil was on all the inhabitants of the lands. NKJV

### 2 Chronicles 15:3-4

3 For a long time Israel has been without the true God, without a teaching priest, and without law; 4 but when in their trouble they turned to the LORD God of Israel, and sought Him, He was found by them. NKJV

- The cares of life steals our peace
- Life keeps escalating
- Israel was without a priest to teach them the word
- When they would seek God He would deliver them
- There comes a time to move from deliverance to peace
- There comes a time to start doing things for the kingdom not just looking for things from the kingdom

### 2 Chronicles 15:8-9

8 And when Asa heard these words and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage, and removed the abominable idols from all the land of Judah and Benjamin and from the cities which he had taken in the mountains of Ephraim; and he restored the altar of the LORD that was before the vestibule of the LORD. NKJV

- Have the blessings of God (things) become an idol?
- Am I seeking the GIVER or the GIFT?
- What you think about is what you worship

## 2 Chronicles 15:12

12 Then they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul; NKJV

- Am I in a covenant to seek the Lord?
- With all my heart and soul?

## 2 Chronicles 15:15

15 And all Judah rejoiced at the oath, for they had sworn with all their heart and sought Him with all their soul; and He was found by them, and the LORD gave them rest all around. NKJV

- When Asa restored worship there was no war for 35 years
- Asa repaired the Temple
- Let Christ repair His temple

Don't let the Devil dictate your schedule

## Daniel 7:25

25 He shall speak pompous words against the Most High,  
Shall persecute the saints of the Most High,  
And shall intend to change times and law.

Then the saints shall be given into his hand  
For a time and times and half a time. NKJV

- Life demands more than we have time to give
- The pressures of life steal our peace
  - The Devil's plan is to wear you out – worry
  - His desire is to dictate your time – busy
  - His desire is to keep you under the law – works

### John 14:27

27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. NKJV

- The pressures of life will attack our relationship with Him – where do you turn for peace?
- The pressures brought on by progress
- The pressures of choice can overload us
  - 1 Corinthians 6:12
- The problems of life steal our peace

### John 16:33

33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." NKJV

- The unexpected complicates our plans
- The problems we are unprepared for destroy our schedules

### Galatians 4:9

9 But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? NKJV

- Don't let life take away your time with the Lord
- Have I just met the Lord or do I know Him?
- Does He know me?
- Don't be a slave to the world
- If all you can think of is what God needs to do you don't believe He loves you
  - 1 John 2:1-6

## How do we have peace when things aren't perfect?

### A Recipe for peace

#### Philippians 4:7

7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

NKJV

- Peace begins when you know you're loved
- Love will guard your heart
- Don't let the circumstance cause you to doubt the Father's love
- Perfect love casts out fear

### You can't have peace if you are preoccupied with yourself

- Meeting the needs of others puts our problems in focus – Live on Mission
- Look beyond where you are

#### Philippians 4:1

1 Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved. NKJV

- Love releases us from unrealistic expectations
- It releases us from performance-based acceptance
- It releases us from the need to conform
- Peace is a revelation of His love
- Take time to help others

#### Philippians 4:2-3

2 I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

- Quarrel no more be friends again TLB

3 And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life. NKJV

- There is only one answer
- One mind that we must have
- Peace with one another – peace with God

#### Philippians 4:4 NKJV

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

- Joy sees beyond the moment
- When joy is based on the moment, depression becomes your best friend
- Jesus saw the joy beyond the cross – Hebrews 12:2

#### Philippians 4:4-5

4 Always be full of joy in the Lord; I say it again, rejoice! 5 Let everyone see that you are unselfish and considerate in all you do TLB

#### Philippians 4:6-7

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. NKJV

- Peace is lost when life accumulates; therefore, you must pray about everything
- Peace is lost when your heart grows unthankful
- Prayer and worship should be an all day event
- Worry and rest can not co exist

Pray in everything

1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. NKJV

- Don't stop seeking Father
- Don't forget your covenant
- Fulfill your part and you won't worry about God fulfilling His part
- If your worrying about God doing His part, your not doing your part

Pray Always

Luke 21:36

36 Watch therefore, and pray always. NKJV

- Pray always – Make request and REST
- Prayer without rest is not prayer at all

Pray Everywhere

1 Timothy 2:8

8 I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting; NKJV

Matt 6:9-13

9 Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily

bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our

debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation,

But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. NKJV