

Problems are – 7

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

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 6:1, 7-12 (Last week) ***
- The problems of life steal our peace

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, you don't know Him and you are not in faith

1 John 2:4-6

4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. 6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. NKJV

1 John 3:23-24

23 And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment. 24 Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us. NKJV

1 John 5:3-5

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments . And His commandments are not burdensome. 4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith. 5 Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? NKJV

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 – See next page for notes

- Peace begins when you know you're loved
- Love will guard your heart
- Your heart can't be trusted
 - Jeremiah 17:9,10, Proverbs 28:26 NLT
- 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

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 (Faith) (Believe)

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

Matthew 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

Psalms 103:7-8

7 He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the

children of Israel. 8 The LORD is merciful and gracious,

Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. NKJV

Psalms 95:10-11

10 For forty years I was grieved with that generation,

And said, 'It is a people who go astray in their hearts,

And they do not know My ways.' 11 So I swore in My

wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'" NKJV

Peace will lead you into persistence (next week)

Persistence is not something that happens over night but over the long hall

2 Corinthians 4:8-10

8 We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed and broken. We are perplexed, but we don't give up and quit. 9 We are hunted down, but God never abandons us. We get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going. 10 Through suffering, these bodies of ours constantly share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies. NLT

- Give a purpose to your problem
- Don't quit
- When we suffer Jesus can be seen
- Remain in Him

Tell me where you lost the company of Christ, and I will tell you the most likely place to find Him. Have you lost Christ in the closet by restraining prayer? Then it is there you must seek and find Him. Did you lose Christ by sin? You will find Christ in no other way but by the giving up of the sin, and seeking by the Holy Spirit to mortify the member in which the lust doth dwell. Did you lose Christ by neglecting the Scriptures? You must find Christ in the Scriptures. "Look for the thing where you dropped it – it is there" – Spurgeon

We must stay persistent in the things we speak

2 Corinthians 4:13

13 But we continue to preach because we have the same kind of faith the psalmist had when he said, "I believed in God, and so I speak." NLT

- Faith speaks – God's word
- You can speak without believing but you can't believe without speaking
- What are you saying?

Mark 11:22-24

22 Then Jesus said to the disciples, "Have faith in God. 23 I assure you that you can say to this mountain, 'May God lift you up and throw you into the sea,' and your command will be obeyed. All that's required is that you really believe and do not doubt in your heart. 24 Listen to me! You can pray for anything, and if you believe, you will have it. NLT

- Do I believe God is a rewarder?
- What am I saying to my mountain?