

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

Am I in Christ or in doubt of self?

Am I expecting a disaster or a victory?

“No trial will leave you tomorrow where you are today”

– John Maxwell

Will I advance or fall back?

First let's talk about some things that

Problems are...

Reminders – We need God's help

Philippians 4:13

13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

NKJV

- There is nothing that we face that's too big
- Being in Christ is the key – Colossians 2:9

## 2 Timothy 4:18

18 And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen! NKJV

## 1 John 5:4

4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith. NKJV

## Obstacles

### James 1:2

2 Consider it wholly joyful, my brethren, whenever you are enveloped in or encounter trials of any sort or fall into various temptations. AMP

- Do I pout, quit or blame somebody?
- Do I ignore it?
- Or do I face it and expect a great outcome?
- Joy – Cheerfulness, Calm delight

## 2 Corinthians 4:17

17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. NKJV

- Eternity minded!

## Psalms 30:11

11 You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness. NKJV

## Blessings

- When we face them with the right attitude
- Dare to endure the problem and reap the blessing
- Sometimes a blessing comes through a battle
- Which seed is bearing fruit?
- Imperishable seed – Word of God
- Perishable seed – my flesh

## Psalm 119:71

71 It is good for me that I have been afflicted,  
That I may learn Your statutes. NKJV

- What does God say about me?
- What does God say about my problem?
- Affliction teaches us to trust God's word – will

## Hebrews 5:7-8

7 who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, 8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. NKJV

- Obedience – Submission (Do I know His will for me?)
- Submitting to the will (Word) of God while facing a trial brings blessings

## Philippians 2:8-9

8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name. NKJV

## Lessons

### Romans 8:37

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. NKJV

- They teach us to be flexible yet determined
- Many lessons can only be learned through trials
- Experience is a hard teacher
- But it will bear fruit

## Everywhere

### 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

- We can't get away from them but we can endure and bear good fruit
- I am an over comer!

## Messages

### Philippians 1:12-14

12 But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, 13 so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; 14 and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. NKJV

- The way we respond to the message will determine our outcome
- Pay attention, redirect, respond in the Spirit
- Others will be encouraged by your outcome

Solvable

### Genesis 50:20

20 But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. NKJV

- Most times it's not that there is no answer to the problem
- The question is am I willing to pay the price to solve it or see it through to the end?

### 2 Corinthians 4:8-9

8 We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed. NKJV

- We only fail when we give up
- Failure is an event not a person

### 2 Corinthians 4:18

18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. NKJV

- Our inheritance is awaiting us
- Both here and in eternity
- The joy of the Lord is our strength – Nehemiah 8:10
- It lasts forever!

### 1 Peter 1:4

4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you. NKJV

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 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 we are passionate about the right things

Patience tells me how I should act

**James 1:4**

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

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 5:39

39 He went inside and spoke to the people. "Why all this weeping and commotion?" he asked. "The child isn't dead; she is only asleep." NLT

- Jesus brings peace to the problem

## 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 preached!