

WHY ALL THE PROBLEMS?

Issues For Christ Followers - Part 1

July 14, 2013

James 1:2 (Phillips) *"When all kinds of trials crowd into your lives, don't resent them as intruders, but welcome them as friends!"*

FACTS FOR UNDERSTANDING YOUR PROBLEMS

1. Problems are **INEVITABLE**.

James 1:2a (NLT) *"Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way..."*

2. Problems are **VARIABLE**.

James 1:2a (NCV) *"My brothers and sisters, when you have many kinds of troubles..."*

3. Problems are **UNPREDICTABLE**.

James 1:2a (Phillips) *"When all kinds of trials and temptations crowd into your lives my brothers, don't resent them as intruders..."*

4. Problems are **PURPOSEFUL**.

James 1:3 (NLT) *"For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow."*

James 1:2-3 (MSG) *"Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. ³ You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors."*

ATTITUDES THAT GIVE GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

1. Problems come to **TEST** your **FAITH**.

James 1:3 (NRSV) *"Because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance."*

2. Problems **DEVELOP** your **ENDURANCE**.

James 1:3 (GW) *"You know that such testing of your faith produces endurance."*

3. Problems **MATURE** your **CHARACTER**.

James 1:4 (MSG) *"So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way."*

God uses His **WORD** and **CIRCUMSTANCES** to make you like Jesus.

HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO PROBLEMS?

1. Choose to **REJOICE** in the problem.

James 1:2 (NIV) *"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds."*

2. Choose to **REQUEST** God's help.

James 1:7 (Phillips) *"If, in the process, any of you do not know how to meet any particular problem, you only have to ask God - who gives generously to all people without making them feel foolish or guilty - and you may be sure that the necessary wisdom will be given to you."*

3. Choose to **RELAX** in God's care.

James 1:5-6a (NCV) *"But if any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He is generous and enjoys giving to all people, so He will give you wisdom. ⁶ But when you ask God, you must believe and not doubt."*

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV) *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."*

James 1:12 (NLT) *"God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him."*