

FINDING PURPOSE AND MEANING IN MY PROBLEMS

James 1:2-6

Helpful books used in preparation of today's message: *"God's Solutions to Life's Problems,"* by Wayne Mack and Joshua Mack, Hensley Publishing. *"12 Keys for Finding Clear Guidance in Life's Trials,"* by Charles Stanley, Thomas Nelson. *"Biblical Answers to Life's Tough Questions,"* by Charles Stanley, Thomas Nelson.

James 1:2

"My brothers and sisters, when you have many kinds of troubles, you should be full of joy." (New Century)

James 1:2-6 – *"When all kinds of trials crowd into your lives, don't resent them as intruders, but welcome them as friends! Realize they come to test your faith, and to produce in you the quality of endurance. But let the process go on until that endurance is fully developed, and you will become a person of mature character (and) integrity with no weak spots."* (Phillips)

Three factors will bring you success in dealing with your problems...

[1] How well I _____ them

[2] My _____ toward them

[3] How I _____ to them

I. FOUR "FACTS OF LIFE"

1. PROBLEMS ARE _____

Verse 2 – *"When you have all kinds of trials..."*

2. PROBLEMS ARE _____

Verse 2 – “When you have all kinds of trials...”

3. PROBLEMS ARE _____

Verse 2 – “When all kinds of trials crowd into your lives, don't resent them as intruders...” (Phillips)

4. PROBLEMS ARE _____

Verse 3 – “You know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.”

II. GOD'S PURPOSES FOR MY PROBLEMS

1. PROBLEMS _____

Verse 3 – “You know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.”

2. PROBLEMS _____

Verse 3 – “The testing of your faith develops perseverance.”

3. PROBLEMS _____

“Let the process go on until that endurance is fully developed; and you will become a person of mature character [and] integrity with no weak spots.” (Phillips)

What God uses to make us like Jesus

[1] The _____

[2] _____

III. HOW TO RESPOND TO YOUR PROBLEMS

1. _____

Verse 2 – “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds.”

Psalm 34:1 – “I will praise the Lord at all times. I will constantly speak his praises.”

2. _____

Verse 5 – “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.”

3. _____

Verse 6 – “When he asks, he must believe and not doubt...”

The Result:

Verse 12 – “Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.”

Bruce's Challenge To You

- [1] Ask God to give you the wisdom to understand the problem
- [2] Ask God for the faith to endure it
- [3] Cast your cares on Him because He care for you (1 Peter 5:7)