

The Reality of Problems in the Life of a Believer – Part 1

The reality of problems

1. Many believers have the mistaken idea that the Christian life is to be a problem-free life.
 - They feel it should be one continual, mountaintop experience - one plush, fluffy cloud ride through this world.
2. Why do believers have this type of faulty thinking?
 - False expectations when they are first saved.
 - Watching too much “Christian” television.
 - Other pious Christians. (They think that outward, physical blessing is a “sign” of God’s approval.)
3. Of course, this is not reality. Trouble and problems are woven into the very fabric of life on planet earth. Job 14:1
4. The apostle Paul warned believers of this type of faulty reasoning and instructed believers to expect problems. 1 Thessalonians 3:3-4; Philippians 1:29; 2 Timothy 3:12
5. The twelve, who ministered to the believing flock of Israel, warned them of the reality of problems also. 1 Peter 4:12, 16; James 1:2, 12
6. Biblical characters knew about the reality of problems:
 - Moses experienced problems with people he was leading. Numbers 16
 - Job experienced problems with Satan. Job 1:6-12
 - David experienced problems with sin. 2 Samuel 11
 - The apostles experienced problems with non-believers. Acts 5:17-18, 40
 - Paul experienced problems with other believers. Acts 15:36-40
7. If we are encountering problems in our lives, it does not mean:
 - We are lacking faith.
 - We are “out of the will of God.”
 - God is angry with us and is “getting even” with us.
8. Problems are simply a reality of life for the child of God. Problems are something that every believer must face and deal with.
9. The title of this lesson is “Overcoming Life’s Problems.” We can face our problems, overcome them, and refuse to allow them to destroy us. But we will never **eliminate** problems (until we die and go to heaven).
10. We will never overcome our problems until we realize where our problems come from. This brings us to our next point.