

The Blessings and Benefits of Problems (Part 1)

Introduction:

1. We have learned that problems are a part of life. Because of the curse of sin on this earth, problems are woven into the fabric of everyday life.
2. Problems come from a variety of sources. We discovered that they can come through:
 - Satanic assault
 - A violation of God's principles (bad **choices**)
 - Simply living in a **fallen** creation
 - Persecution due to our **godly** lives
3. But did you know that there is a blessing and benefit in problems?
 - *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."* **Romans 8:28-29**
 - God desires that we reflect Christ's **glory** in all that we do and everywhere we go.
4. Problems can play a key role in this glorification process.
5. Jesus is full of glory at the right hand of the Father, but that glory was preceded by **suffering**. Hebrews 12:2-3; Hebrews 2:9-10; 1 Peter 1:11
6. Our path is the same as our Savior's. Romans 8:17-18; 2 Corinthians 4:8-11
7. This is why God does not insulate His children from the problems of life.
8. Problems and suffering have a way of **reminding** us that this earthly life is not the real thing. Our time on this earth is simply a preparation ground for something far **better**. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Colossians 3:1-4
9. There are many internal benefits and blessings of problems. Let's examine some of those benefits.

First, problems can lead us to a state of _____.

1. God cannot use a prideful person. Proverbs 29:23; 1 Peter 5:5
2. God's call is for us to _____ away pride and humble ourselves.
 - *"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."* **James 4:10**
 - *"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time."* **1 Peter 5:6**
3. Problems and suffering enter into lives and can help to either:
 - _____ a pride problem – **Example:** _____
(Matthew 26:33-35; cf. Matthew 26:69-75)
 - _____ a pride problem – **Example:** _____
(2 Corinthians 12:7-10)