

# **The Blessings and Benefits of Problems (Part 5)**

## **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. 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 humility.**

**Second, problems can teach us patience.**

**Third, problems can cause us to deepen our relationship with the Lord.**

**Fourth, problems can open doors for ministry to others.**

**Fifth, problems can strengthen relationships or allow \_\_\_\_\_ friendships to begin.**

1. Relationships can be \_\_\_\_\_-changing. The friends we choose can either make us or break us in our spiritual life. Proverbs 13:20, 22:24-25
2. Why are friends so important during times of testing and problems?
  - Because one of the main purposes of friendship is to be there to extend a \_\_\_\_\_ hand in time of need. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10
  - Because our need for human companionship multiplies during times of testing and trials. Jesus is our example. Matthew 26:36-45
  - Because, many times, God works in our lives through \_\_\_\_\_. Many times, He comforts, assures, loves, and cares for you through others. 2 Timothy 1:15-18
3. Our closest relationships are those with whom we have walked through the fires and floods of problems, trials, and suffering. Proverbs 18:24

4. But, we must actively seek to strengthen our relationships when going through problems. It will not happen automatically. How can we do this? Let's look at three simple, yet incredible truths that have the power to radically change our relationships in a positive way.

**A. By maintaining \_\_\_\_\_ communication**

- As the disciples were about to go through the most turbulent time of their lives, Jesus kept the lines of communication open. After the resurrection, it was the same way.  
**Example:** Luke 24:44-45
- The strongest, closest relationships will have conflicts. When this happens, we have two choices:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ it through.
  - Turn and \_\_\_\_\_.
- Many satisfying relationships have been terminated because one or both parties decided to quit \_\_\_\_\_.
- Ephesians 4:29 – This verse provides the three laws of effective communication.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ – *“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth...”*
  - \_\_\_\_\_ – *“...but that which is good to the use of edifying...”*
  - \_\_\_\_\_ – *“...that it may minister grace to the hearers.”*
- Do you want to strengthen your relationships when you go through problems? Take a lesson from Jesus and maintain open communication.

**To be continued next week!**