

How To Handle Life's Problems

- **Romans 8:28-31 (KJV)** 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. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?
- **Romans 8:28-31 (MSG)** That's why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good. God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity he restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him. After God made that decision of what his children should be like, he followed it up by calling people by name. After he called them by name, he set them on a solid basis with himself. And then, after getting them established, he stayed with them to the end, gloriously completing what he had begun. So, what do you think? With God on our side like this, how can we lose?
- **Philippians 2:5 (KJV)** Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:
- **Philippians 2:5 (NCV)** In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.
- **WHAT IS JESUS LIKE? HE IS LIKE THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT!**
- **Galatians 5:19-23 (NLT)** When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, your lives will produce these evil results: sexual immorality, impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure, idolatry, participation in demonic activities, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, divisions, the feeling that everyone is wrong except those in your own little group, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other kinds of sin. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Here there is no conflict with the law.
- **2 Corinthians 3:18 (KJV)** But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.
- **2 Corinthians 3:18 (NLT)** And all of us have had that veil removed so that we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him and reflect his glory even more.
- **Galatians 5:16 (KJV)** This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.
- **Galatians 5:16 (LB)** I advise you to obey only the Holy Spirit's instructions. He will tell you where to go and what to do, and then you won't always be doing the wrong things your evil nature wants you to.
 - Not becoming a god, but becoming GODLY
 - Not imitation, but HABITATION
 - Not trying to be like Jesus, but letting Jesus be HIMSELF IN US
- **HOW DOES THE HOLY GHOST IN US MAKE US LIKE JESUS? THREE WAYS:**
 1. **The Holy Ghost uses TRUTH to produce Christ-like character.**

2 Timothy 3:15-17, Psalm 19:7-11, Psalm 119:9, 50, 105, 130, Colossians 3:16, Hebrews 4:12, Romans 15:4, 1 John 5:13, Psalm 1:2-3, Matthew 4:4, John 15:7, John 17:17, Ephesians 6:17, Acts 20:32
 2. **The Holy Ghost uses PEOPLE to produce Christ-like character.**

Ephesians 4:11-16, Titus 1:13, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, Hebrews 13:16-17, 1 Peter 4:8-10, 1 Corinthians 13:1-7, 1 Peter 5:5, Galatians 6:1-5, Romans 12:9-21, Matthew 5:23-24
 3. **The Holy Ghost uses CIRCUMSTANCES to produce Christ-like character.**

2 Corinthians 4:17 (KJV) For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory;

2 Corinthians 4:17 (NIV) For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

- Which one does God use most often? CIRCUMSTANCES, because we have them in our lives 24 hours a day!
- God has a purpose behind every problem (Romans 8:28-31).
- Our circumstances are like ingredients in a cake, which are not good alone, but they WORK TOGETHER for good!
- **KEY THOUGHT:** God develops the Fruit of the Spirit in your life by allowing you to experience circumstances where you're tempted to express the OPPOSITE QUALITY!
- **EXPECT FOUR KINDS OF PROBLEMS IN LIFE:**
 1. TRIALS: designed by GOD to draw us closer to Him and build our character
 2. TEMPTATIONS: designed by the DEVIL to draw us away from God and destroy our character
 3. TRESPASSES: hurts caused by the sins of OTHERS
 4. TROUBLES: usually the CONSEQUENCES of our own sinful choices
- The storms of life are caused for different reasons: Jonah got in a storm because HE was out of God's will, Paul got in a storm because OTHERS were out of God's will, the disciples got in a storm because they were IN God's will!
- **KEY THOUGHT:** Different kinds of problems require different kinds of responses!
- If it's a TROUBLE (your own fault), you should REPENT for it.
 - **Genesis 42:21 (NCV)** They said to each other, "We are being punished for what we did to our brother. We saw his trouble, and he begged us to save him, but we refused to listen. That is why we are in this trouble now."
 - **Psalms 31:10 (NCV)** My life is ending in sadness, and my years are spent in crying. My troubles are using up my strength, and my bones are getting weaker.
 - **Psalms 40:12 (NCV)** Troubles have surrounded me; there are too many to count. My sins have caught me so that I cannot see a way to escape. I have more sins than hairs on my head, and I have lost my courage.
 - **Psalms 18:6 (NCV)** In my trouble I called to the Lord. I cried out to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my call for help reached his ears.
- If it's a TEMPTATION (from the devil), you should RESIST it.
 - **Matthew 26:41 (KJV)** Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.
 - **1 Corinthians 10:12-13 (KJV)** Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.
 - **James 1:14 (KJV)** But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.
 - **James 4:7 (KJV)** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
- If it's a TRESPASS (others against you), you should RELEASE it.
 - **Joshua 22:20 (KJV)** Did not Achan the son of Zerah commit a trespass in the accursed thing, and wrath fell on all the congregation of Israel? and that man perished not alone in his iniquity.
 - **Ezekiel 15:8 (KJV)** And I will make the land desolate, because they have committed a trespass, saith the Lord God.
 - **Luke 17:4 (KJV)** And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.
 - **Matthew 6:14-15 (KJV)** For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.
- If it's a TRIAL (allowed by God), you should REJOICE in it.
 - **Romans 5:3 (NLT)** We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us—they help us learn to endure.
 - **James 1:2-3 (TEV)** My friends, consider yourselves fortunate when all kinds of trials come your way, for you know that when your faith succeeds in facing such trials, the result is the ability to endure.
 - **James 1:12 (TEV)** Happy are those who remain faithful under trials, because when they succeed in passing such a test, they will receive as their reward the life which God has promised to those who love him.
 - **1 Peter 1:7 (NLT)** These trials are only to test your faith, to show that it is strong and pure. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—and your faith is far more precious to God than mere gold. So if your faith remains strong after being tried by fiery trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.