

# SEEING PROBLEMS AS GOD SEES THEM

## Seeing Through God's Eyes – Part 3

### April 22, 2018

**1 Peter 4:12-13 (MSG)** *"Friends, when life gets really difficult, don't jump to the conclusion that God isn't on the job. <sup>13</sup>Instead, be glad that you are in the very thick of what Christ experienced. This is a spiritual refining process, with glory just around the corner."*

### HOW GOD USES PROBLEMS IN YOUR LIFE...

#### 1. God uses problems to **DIRECT** you.

**Proverbs 16:9 (GW)** *"A person may plan his own journey, but the Lord directs his steps."*

**Proverbs 20:30 (GNT)** *"Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways."*

**Luke 15:17a&18a (GNT)** *"At last he came to his senses and said, <sup>18</sup> 'I will get up and go to my father.' "*

**Psalms 119:59 (GW)** *"I have thought about my life, and I have directed my feet back to Your written instructions."*

**2 Corinthians 7:9a (TLB)** *"Now I am glad I sent it, not because it hurt you but because the pain turned you to God."*

**1 Kings 17:7a (NIV)** *"Some time later the brook dried up."*

**ASK: Where is this problem leading me?**

#### 2. God uses problems to **INSPECT** you.

**Jeremiah 17:10 (TLB)** *"Only the Lord knows! He searches all hearts and examines deepest motives so He can give to each person his right reward, according to his deeds—how he has lived."*

**Proverbs 16:2 (MSG)** *"Humans are satisfied with whatever looks good; God probes for what is good."*

**Deuteronomy 8:2 (NIV)** *"Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep His commands."*

**Isaiah 48:10 (CEV)** *"I tested you in hard times just as silver is refined in a heated furnace."*

**ASK: What does this problem reveal about me?**

### **3. God uses problems to CORRECT you.**

**Hebrews 12:8&10b (CEV)** *“God corrects all of His children, and if He doesn’t correct you, then you don’t really belong to Him. <sup>10</sup> But God corrects us for our own good, because He wants us to be holy, as He is.”*

**Job 5:17 (CEV)** *“Consider yourself fortunate if God All-Powerful chooses to correct you.”*

**Psalms 119:71 (CEV)** *“When You corrected me, it did me good because it taught me to study Your laws.”*

**ASK: What is this problem teaching me?**

### **4. God uses problems to PROTECT you.**

**Psalms 91:3a (NCV)** *“God will save you from hidden traps...”*

**A disappointment is often God’s divine appointment.**

**1 Peter 3:17 (NCV)** *“It is better to suffer for doing good than for doing wrong if that is what God wants.”*

**Genesis 50:20 (NIV)** *“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”*

**Proverbs 20:24 (TLB)** *“Since the Lord is directing our steps, why try to understand everything that happens along the way?”*

**ASK: How is this problem protecting me?**

### **5. God uses problems to PERFECT you.**

**1 Peter 5:10 (GNT)** *“But after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who calls you to share His eternal glory in union with Christ, will Himself perfect you and give you firmness, strength, and a sure foundation.”*

**2 Corinthians 4:17 (MSG)** *“These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us.”*

**Romans 5:3-4 (TLB)** *“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 be patient. <sup>4</sup> And patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time we use it until finally our hope and faith are strong and steady.”*

**ASK: How does God want to use this problem to make me more like Him?**