

INCLUDED

A JOURNEY THROUGH ROMANS



1. What is “evil” and when does it exist?
2. In Pastor Rick’s message, what is the first reason we have problems? Read Romans 5:12 and 19. What are the two results to mankind because of Adam and Eve’s original sin? Why do you think God allows the consequences of sin to impact people who did not commit the sin? How does this still happen today?
3. In the message, what was the second reason we have problems? What caused this?
4. What was the third thing that causes us problems? Read 1 Peter 5:8,9. What are we to do in regard to Satan and how do we do it? What does it mean to “stand firm in the faith”?
5. What is the fourth cause of our problems? Does this surprise you? Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. What did God tell Paul when Paul asked Him three times to take away his physical infirmity? What does this tell us about why God allows us to have problems in this world?
6. Read Romans 5:3-5. What are the four ways in this passage that our problems test our faith and cause it to grow? Does this happen automatically?
7. If we do not allow our problems to cause us to focus on Jesus and rely on Him, what six negative reactions will we have instead of peace and joy? Which one do you tend to have when you do not focus on Jesus in your problems?

ANSWERS

- 1. Evil is not a thing, but is the absence of good as defined by God. When what God says is good is absent, then evil exists. Just like darkness is not a thing of itself, but exists when there is an absence of light. Evil is the only thing in existence that did not come from God, so whenever God is excluded, evil is present.*
- 2. The first reason is Adam and Eve's original sin. The two results of their sin was that man died spiritually (separated from God) and eventually physically. The other result was that mankind now possesses a sinful nature that he is born with and that compels him to sin. Man cannot stop sinning.*
- 3. The second cause of our problems is that we live in a broken world and all of its brokenness is because of sin. Even natural disasters are a consequence of sin because God placed a curse on the creation as part of the punishment for Adam and Eve's sin. (See Genesis 3:17-19).*
- 4. The third cause of our problems is Satan's plans. ! Peter 5 says we are to resist Satan and we do it by "standing firm in the faith". This has a double meaning: Firstly, it means that we are to stand firm in the truth that God has revealed; Satan's plans for us are always based on lies that he deceives us with. If we do not know what God says, we cannot expose and resist his plans. The second idea is to stand firm with our faith anchored in God, that we trust and rely on him by faith for everything in our lives. We must rely on God's strength to defeat Satan because he is much to powerful for us to fight on our own and when we try to, we will lose. Note: If you are a believer in Jesus, you cannot be demon possessed because the Holy Spirit lives inside of you. Read 1 John 4:4.*
- 5. The fourth cause of our problems is God's grace. Paul says when sin abounds, God's grace abounds even more to overcome it. In 2 Corinthians 12, God refused to remove the physical defect that Paul was suffering in order to force Paul to rely on God and His strength to overcome his condition. When Paul did this, he became strong in God's grace, so Paul was thankful for his problems and suffering because he wound up being better off with God's strength. God lets us suffer problems for the same purpose, so his grace can supply our strength.*
- 6. The four ways problems cause us to grow are: a. Develops our endurance v.3; b. Strengthens our character v.4a; c. Solidifies our hope in God v.4b; and d. Builds our love for God and others v.5. This does not happen automatically, we must respond to our problems correctly. If we respond incorrectly, they will build nothing and destroy our faith.*
- 7. The negative responses we will have are: a. We will rebel against God because we don't think He's being fair with us; b. Resignation—we just bear under it, no smiles, no joy, just suffering; c. We complain; d. We worry; e. We have fear; f. We have self-pity and become victims instead of victors.*