



THE PURPOSE FOR MY PROBLEMS

April 29 & 30, 2023

James 1:2-6 (NIV)

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.”

Rejoicing is not the power of positive thinking; it’s the power of allowing the Holy Spirit to help you think positively in any situation.

Four Guarantees About My Problems:

- Problems are **inevitable**. “Whenever” not “If”.
- Problems are **unpredictable**. “...whenever you face trials ...”
- Problems are **innumerable**. “...of many kinds...”
- Problems are **purposeful**. “...the testing of your faith produces perseverance...”

God’s Purpose for Allowing Problems is to:

1. **Purify my faith.**

James 1:3 (TPT)

“For you know that when your faith is tested it stirs up in you the power of endurance.”

Job 23:10 (NLT)

“But he knows where I am going. And when he tests me, I will come out as pure as gold.”

Isaiah 48:10 (NLT)

“I have refined you, but not as silver is refined. Rather, I have refined you in the furnace of suffering. I will rescue you for my sake— yes, for my own sake! I will not let my reputation be tarnished, and I will not share my glory with idols.”

Four reasons we have problems in this world:

- **A broken planet.**
- **The actions of sinful people.**
- **The discipline of our heavenly Father.**
- **The stupidity of our own decisions.**

2. Solidify my patience.

James 1:4 (NCV)

Let your patience show itself perfectly in what you do. Then you will be perfect and complete and will have everything you need.

3. Sanctify my character.

James 1:4b (NIV)

... That you may become mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Two Ways God Makes Us More Like Jesus:

- Through our circumstances
- Through His Word

HOW CAN I FIND PURPOSE IN MY PROBLEMS?

1

Rejoice in every single one of them.

James 1:2 (TPT)

My fellow believers, when it seems as though you are facing nothing but difficulties, see it as an invaluable opportunity to experience the greatest joy that you can!

Psalms 118:24 (NIV)

The LORD has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.

Matthew 5:11-12 (NIV)

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

2

Request God's help.

James 1:5 (MSG)

If you don't know what you're doing, pray to the Father. He loves to help. You'll get his help, and won't be condescended to when you ask for it.

“Prayer should be my first response not my last-ditch effort.”

3

Relax in the assurance that God is in control.

James 1:6 (MSG)

Ask boldly, believingly, without a second thought. People who "worry their prayers" are like wind-whipped waves.

Stop — be still and know that He is God.

Drop — to our knees and pray.

Relax — in the confidence that everything is going to work out for His purpose and glory.

Psalm 59:10 (TLB)

My God is changeless in his love for me, and he will come and help me. He will let me see my wish come true upon my enemies.

MEMORY VERSE

James 1:5 (NIV)

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