



GOD'S PLAN FOR MY PROBLEMS

July 13 & 14, 2024

Romans 5:1-21 (NLT)

Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation. For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. Yes, people sinned even before the law was given. But it was not counted as sin because there was not yet any law to break. Still, everyone died—from the time of Adam to the time of Moses—even those who did not disobey an explicit commandment of God, as Adam did. Now Adam is a symbol, a representation of Christ, who was yet to come. But there is a great difference between Adam's sin and God's gracious gift. For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ.

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Romans 5:1-21 (continued)

And the result of God's gracious gift is very different from the result of that one man's sin. For Adam's sin led to condemnation, but God's free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins. For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.

Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous.

God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant. So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

4 Reasons We Have Problems

1. My problems are a result of Adam's original _____.

Romans 5:12 (NLT)

When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.

2. My problems are a result of this broken _____ we live in.

Romans 5:17-18 (NLT)

For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ. Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone.

John 16:33 (NIV)

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

3. My problems are a result of Satan's _____.

Romans 16:20 (NIV)

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

1 Peter 5:8-9 (NIV)

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

4. My problems are a result of God's _____.

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God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant.

Psalms 119:71-72 (NLT)

My suffering was good for me, for it taught me to pay attention to your decrees. Your instructions are more valuable to me than millions in gold and silver.

God Promises 2 Realities About My Problems:

- If I have faith in His plan, I receive His _____.

Romans 5:1 (NLT)

Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.

- If I have faith in Jesus, I receive the _____ of being in God's presence forever.

Romans 5:2 (NLT)

Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.

God Uses Problems To:



_____ my faith and make it grow.

Romans 5:3-5 (NLT)

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

Every Test Should:

- _____ my endurance – verse 3
We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance.
- _____ my character – verse 4a
And endurance develops strength of character...
- _____ my confident hope – verse 4b
...and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.
- _____ my love for God and others – verse 5
And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.



_____ my focus to everything Jesus has done
for me.

Romans 5:6-8 (NLT)

When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

Life is a Temporary Assignment To:

- **Love _____ with all my heart, soul, mind and strength.**

Mark 12:30 (NLT)

And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.

- **Love _____ exactly the same way God loves me.**

Mark 12:31 (NLT)

The second is equally important: "Love your neighbor as yourself." No other commandment is greater than these.

Failing to Focus on Jesus Brings 6 Pitfalls to My Attitude:

- **Rebellion**
- **Resignation**
- **Murmuring**
- **Worry**
- **Fear**
- **Self-pity**



_____ my sadness into triumphant
friendship with God.

Romans 5:10-11 (NLT)

For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

John 15:13-17 (NLT)

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. This is my command: Love each other.

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And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." He was even called the friend of God.



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- **Strengthen my character – verse 4a**
And endurance develops strength of character...
- **Solidify my confident hope – verse 4b**
...and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.
- **Build my love for God and others – verse 5**
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