

## BIG PROBLEMS? BIGGER GOD!

### Part 1: Managing Life's Problems

**INTRO:** When and where did our problems begin? In the Garden in Genesis 3 when Adam and Eve fell and sin entered and earth was cursed (Rom. 5:12-19; 1 Cor. 15:20-22)—Problems birthed. Job wrote (and he should know), “But man is born to trouble as the sparks fly upward” (5:7) and “Man who is born of a woman is few of days and full of trouble” (14:1). Listen to Jesus, “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have *tribulation*. But *take heart*; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). Paul adds, in Rom. 8:35-39 etc.

### OBSERVATIONS ABOUT PROBLEMS

1. Problems are universal in a fallen world (Jn. 16:33, Rom 8:18-25; 2 Cor. 4:16-18). They are like giants (Deut. 9:1-3). They have many names: worry, stress, ... Life doesn't always make sense nor always fair.
2. We often over-emotionalize and over-exaggerate our problems.
3. Persistent problems wear us down (2 Cor. 4:8).
4. When we rightly respond to problems, God uses them to make us more like Christ (Psa. 119:71; Rom. 8:28-29). The problem is less of the problem but how we respond to the problem. Attitude is critical. No problems equals no growth. Every problem is disguised as a great opportunity even a divine appointment. Illus—Helicopter God...

### MYTHS ABOUT PROBLEMS

1. Becoming a Christian solves all our problems. Truth is becoming a follower of Christ creates problems (Matt. 5:10-12; 10:34-37). We share in His sufferings (Rom. 5:3-5; 8:17; Ph. 3:10-11; 1 Pet. 1:3-6; 4:12-13).
2. Every problem in life is discussed in the Bible. Most are!
3. Exposure to and knowledge of the Bible will cause our problems to be resolved.
4. Problems indicate sinfulness and immaturity. Maybe!

## MANAGING OUR PROBLEMS

### 1. PRESENCE OF GOD –

- Jehovah Shammah – He is with us (Rom. 8:35-39; Heb. 13:5)
- Examples: Joseph (8xs) (Gen. 37-50), Moses (Ex. 3:12), David (Psa. 46:1), Joshua (1:5; Deut. 31:6-8)
- Promises: Phil. 4:13; 1 Pet. 5:7
- He knows, He cares, He CAN! John 14:18-20; Matt. 14:22-33
- Psalms 13, 16, 34, 42, 43, 46, 55, 121

### 2. SUPPORT OF OTHERS – We need others to help us through (2 Cor. 7:5-6). Source of courage.

### 3. WISDOM OF GOD – to understand what's happening and to know what to do.

- Wisdom is the ability to view life from God's perspective.
- Wisdom is available (James 3:13-18; Rom. 11:33; 1 Cor. 1:30). Sources:
  - Indwelling Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:14-15)
  - Living Word of God (Psa. 111:10; 119:98-100)
  - Counsel of Others (Pro. 1:5; 11:14; 12:15; 13:10, 20; 15:22; 19:20; 20:18)
  - Prayer (Jam. 1:2-5) – Never told to pray for knowledge
- Wisdom can be spurned—and we pay for it (Pro. 1:22-28, 31-32).

### 4. PATIENT PERSEVERANCE (2 Cor. 4:8-9) – He will empower us, too. Growth requires problems. Progressive without problems is not possible.

### 5. PROPER PERSPECTIVE (2 Cor. 12:7-10)

**CONC:** Jesus came not only to die for our sins, but also to help us with our problems.