

FACING LIFE'S PROBLEMS: A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

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I. GOD AND MY PROBLEMS

A. Problems Here, There and Everywhere!

A problem is something that must be solved. For example, in life we are presented with many problems to solve. Some of them are easy and may be solved without much difficulty, such as “what am I going to eat for breakfast this morning”? Other problems can be more challenging to solve. In some instances, we might not even know where to begin. Sometimes we do not know the answer, and many times we do not know where to start to find the answer!

Life is filled with problems. There are both easy ones and difficult ones. There may be a person in your life who is hard to get along with. How do you solve that problem? You might be sick with the flu and get behind in some work you have to do. How do you solve that problem? You might even get the urge to run away from your problems. How do you solve problems?

Some problems are difficult! We might wish that we could live in a problem-free world where nothing ever goes wrong and everything always happens as we want it to happen, but such a world would be a dream world and not the real world.

What did the Lord Jesus Christ tell us to expect in the real world? (John 16:33)

John 16:33 *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

NOTICE:

1. Jesus did not say, “In the world you shall have **NO** problems”. He did not say, “Everything will go smoothly with no disappointments and no difficulties.”
2. Jesus said, “In the world you shall have tribulation (**TROUBLE**, pressures, **PROBLEMS**, difficulties).”

On Mars there are no problems. Why? Suppose 100 people got into a space transport and they made it to Mars to live there. Then, there would be problems on Mars. Where there are people there are problems!

B. Recognize That There Are Problems

1. **EACH** person here faces problems.

Can you think of problems you are facing right now? Are you facing problems with your family, your job, friends, or possibly maybe even another church member? (Maybe someone who was once your friend is no longer your friend.)

2. You may be facing the problem of:
 - a. **SICKNESS**
 - b. **UNHAPPINESS**
 - c. **GUILT** (being bothered by things you have done wrong in the past)
 - d. etc, etc, etc.....

II. THE BIBLE IS CLEAR

A. Expect The Unexpected

There are very real problems and things that all people face. Should the believer expect problems and troubles and difficulties to be part of his life? Let's see what the Bible says:

Paul said:

1. “We are **TROUBLED** on every side” (2 Corinthians 4:8).

Just as you can take a balloon and squeeze it on every side, so the believer is squeezed by the pressures and problems of life.

The verse also says “We are perplexed” (2 Cor. 4:8). Sometimes, we do not know how to solve our problems!

2. “**MANY** are the **AFFLICTIONS** of the righteous” (Psalm 34:19).

Psalm 34:19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

The believer can expect problems. Some people seem to have more problems than others.

David had problems: He faced a giant with a staff in his hand, a sling, and five smooth stones from a brook. What the giant didn't know was that he was not facing a simple shepherd boy. He was facing the power of almighty God! **David told Goliath** “This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand;...” **1 Samuel 17:46.**

As **Paul the Apostle** waited for the cold steel of the executioner's blade to remove his head, he could say: “*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness,...*” **2 Timothy 4:7, 8.**

After spending a night in a cave with blood thirsty lions, **Daniel**, in the morning said “My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me.” **Daniel 6:22.**

Moses faced many problems in his life. Before he and the people of Israel left Egypt Moses was told by God that at the midnight hour He would pass through the land of Egypt and destroy, kill, the first born of man and beast. **BUT**, God told Moses “And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you,...” **Exodus 12:13**

Joseph faced many problems. In every situation the hand of God was upon him to protect him. “And the LORD was with Joseph,...” **Genesis 39:2**; “But the LORD was with Joseph,...” **Genesis 39:21**; “the LORD was with him,...” **Genesis 39:23**

The Lord Jesus Christ had problems. **BUT**, God the Father said of Jesus: “...Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” **Mark 1:11**; “...This is my beloved Son: hear him.” **Mark 9:7**

Matthew 22:44 “The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool?” **Psalms 110:1** “The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.”

NOTE: Matthew 22:43-45: Christ specifically applies Psalm 110:1 to Himself claiming that He is not just the son of David but David's Lord. You are going to have problems. (1 Peter 4:12)

1 Peter 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

III. WHAT TO DO

A. Realize That You Need Help (Psalm 40:17; 70:5; 86:1; 109:22)

There are four verses in the Psalms that all say the same thing. (Psalm 40:17; 70:5; 86:1; 109:22)

Psalm 40:17 “But I am poor and needy;...” (All these Psalms (Psalm 40:17; 70:5; 86:1; 109:22) remind us that we are poor and needy. We need help!)

1. You need to admit: “I am **POOR** and **NEEDY!**”

Suppose you were told you had to have an operation to have your gallbladder removed. You can't remove your own gallbladder. Who would you ask to do the operation? Would you go to your auto mechanic to do the removal of the gallbladder? After all, he is a professional. He knows all about removing internal parts: transmissions, spark plugs, water pumps, and etc. In a sense he is an automobile physician. Of course, an automobile mechanic is not the physician you need for your gallbladder. You need a physician who knows about gallbladders.

What about the problems you face in life? Do you go to your automobile mechanic, the gallbladder physician?

B. Where Should You Go For Help With Your Problems?

If you cannot solve a spiritual problem, a family problem, a church problem, then you must get help from someone. You must go to someone who is able and willing to help you solve the problem.

Whom do we go to Who is able and willing to help us solve life's greatest problems?

1. **Psalm 121:1-2** "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my **HELP**. 2 My **HELP** cometh from the **LORD**, which made heaven and earth." (Psalm 121:1-2; 2 Chronicles 20:12)

According to these verses (Psalm 121:1-2), who is the One who is able to be your *HELPER*? Of course. It is the Lord. If God could make the heavens and the earth, do you think He has the power to help you solve the problems that you are facing right now?

2 Chronicles 20:12 O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee.

In 2 Chronicles 20:12 the children of Israel were facing a great problem which they could not solve themselves. They were being invaded by the enemy. They said, "We have no might, and we do not know what to do!" They looked in the right direction for help: Their help would come from the Lord!

Consider Psalm 25:15.

Psalm 25:15 Mine eyes are ever toward the LORD; for he shall pluck my feet out of the net.

The net represents one of your problems. (Psalm 25:15) You cannot get your feet out of the net yourself, you need help from the Lord. Our eyes should not be on the problem (*the net*). Our eyes should be on the One who can solve the problem, God Himself!

2. Go to God for help in time of **NEED** , and when you are **AFRAID** (Ps. 37:39; Heb. 4:16; Ps. 56:3)

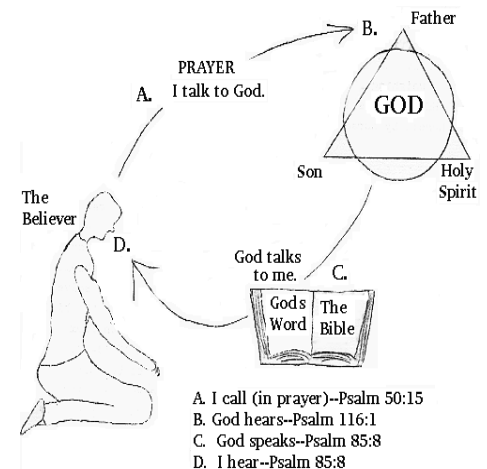
Psalm 37:39 But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Psalm 56:3 What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.

IV. TO FIND HELP BEGIN WITH GOD AND HIS WORD

- A. I call (in prayer) - **Psalm 50:15** "And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me."
- B. God hears - **Psalm 116:1** "I love the LORD, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications."
- C. God speaks - **Psalm 85:8b,c** "...for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly."
- D. I hear - **Psalm 85:8a** "I will hear what God the LORD will speak:..."



Why Must You Go to God and His Word?

There are times when we may ask: Does God have anything to say about my problems and how to solve them? Does God really know about me and the things that I face? Does God really care? Sometimes we fail to realize how much God knows about us, about our problems, and how much He cares. God is very familiar with us, our lives, and our world. The truth is that God knows us better than we know ourselves!

God knew all about us before we were even born. Listen to what God said about Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:5):

"Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee." (Jeremiah 1:5) God knew all about Jeremiah even before he was in the womb of his mother!

The same is true for you as it was for Jeremiah. God knew you even before you were conceived in your mother's womb.

1. God knows **ALL** about you. (Psalm 139:1-6)

God knows all about me: before I was conceived, before I was born. He knows the exact day that I will die, and He knows how I will die. God knows me better than I know myself! God knew me before I was born, and He knows all about my death, then certainly He also knows everything that will come between my birth and my death!

NOTICE PSALM 139:1-6

Psalm 139:1-6 O lord, thou hast searched me, and **known** me (*He has intimate, personal knowledge of me.*).

Psalm 139:2 Thou knowest my **downsitting** and mine **uprising** (*He knows when I sit down, and He knows when I stand up*), thou understands (*knows*) **my thought** afar off ("**afar off**": *He knows what I think even before I have the thought, He knows*).

Psalm 139:3 Thou compassest my path (*He knows the direction I will take in life.*) and my lying down (*He knows when I am sleeping*), and art acquainted with all my ways (*He knows everything I do.*).

Psalm 139:4 For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether (*He knows everything I say.*).

Psalm 139:5 Thou hast beset me behind and before (*God is all around me. I can't get away from Him.*), and laid thine hand upon me (*His Hand is upon us when WE know Him.*

Psalm 139:6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it. (*It is hard for me to comprehend fully, that God knows everything there is to know about me. He knows every personal thing about me.*)

Since God knows everything about me, since He is the creator of life, then He must be the One who can fix me: *the problems I face.*

V. GOD HAS SOLVED MAN'S GREATEST PROBLEM

A. Getting Into God's Holy Heaven.

How can a sinful person go to God's holy heaven? *Why is getting into God's holy Heaven a problem? Because:* "...all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" (Romans 3:23)

1. Receive Jesus as personal **SAVIOUR**. (John 1:12; Romans 6:23b)

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Romans 6:23b "... the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.)

God has solved my greatest problem: the salvation of my soul. He then certainly is able to solve all of the other problems (lesser problems) that I have as I go through life! If God can save my soul, then certainly He can also save me from the problems that I face every day!

Have you let God solve your biggest problem? Have you let God save you and forgive all your sins? Have you received Christ as your personal Saviour and Lord? See John 1:12; 3:16-18; Romans 6:23; and Romans 10:9-13.

GOD MUST BE YOUR SAVIOUR BEFORE HE CAN BE YOUR PROBLEM-SOLVER!

